Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Live births in NMI drop 5 percent in 2013. PAGE 2
House OKs fiscal year 2015 budget cap. PAGE 4

'$60M, business plans are in'

» 2 Saipan casino applicants beat submission deadline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two investor groups applying for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2-billion casino resort on Saipan met yesterday's deadline to submit their business plan and deposit $30 million each in escrow.

In an impromptu news briefing on Capital Hill late yesterday afternoon, press secretary Angel Demapan told reporters that Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. and Best Sunshine International Ltd. are both still in the running for an exclusive Saipan casino license.

The four-member Lottery Commission, whose meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday afternoon, has until June 19 to decide on the applications.

See $60M on Page 4

CUC junks CHC offer of $325K monthly

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Negotiations between the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on how the public hospital will settle its arrears with the utility agency are at an impasse after CUC rejected outright the offer made by hospital officials.

RELATED NEWS
➤ CUC 'not receptive' to 45-day extension sought by PSS. PAGE 2

Officials and representatives of both agencies met yesterday to settle the hospital's arrears but, after almost two hours in a closed-door meeting at the Commonwealth Health Center, CUC officials felt they had no other option but to reject the healthcare corporation's offer.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan later told *Saipan Tribune* that CHCC offered to pay only $325,000 for its monthly utility consumption, which av-

See CHC on Page 4

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE' HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), left, presents a framed copy of a House of Representatives resolution to former representative Egredino "Dino" M. Jones, honoring the former elected official for his "distinguished career in public office" and contributions to the CNMI people, at the start of a House session yesterday afternoon. Looking on are Jones' family and friends and other lawmakers.

Article 12 initiative draws emotional public comments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For almost two hours yesterday afternoon, the House of Representatives received comments that were at times emotional—and dramatic—either for or against a legislative initiative giving landowners the option to subject their land to the current land alienation provision under Article 12 of the NMI Constitution for "at least 25 years" before it could be removed. House members may act on the initiative this morning.

At the public comment period, one community member ripped apart a copy of the legislative initiative in front of lawmakers, while another one threw it away.

That did not sit well with some lawmakers who described the gesture as a sign of disrespect not only for House members but also for the general public.

Some who stood up to comment

See ARTICLE 12 on Page 4

IMMIGRATION FORUM
CW workers beware!

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Today, we will address some bad practices with respect to CW applications and employment. Some of these bad practices are due to mistakes, reliance on rumors, and ignorance of the law. Others are simply abusive employment practices aimed at exploiting gullible and powerless workers. A large number involve collusion between employer and worker to avoid the rules.

See PAGE 13

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
If the elections were held today, how would you vote on the initiative that proposes to amend Article 12 to allow any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

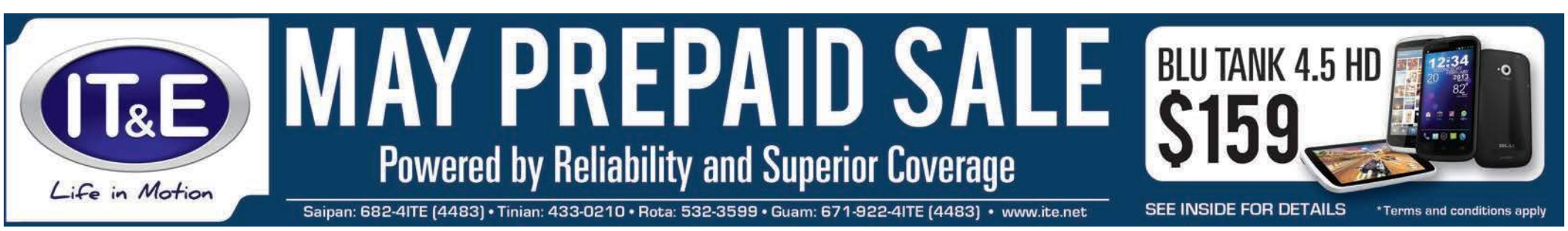
INSIDE

NATION

Nine circus performers are seriously injured after plummeting to the ground. ➤ PAGE 16

ASIA

The ferry Sewol exceeded its cargo limit on nearly every voyage it made before it sank. ➤ PAGE 17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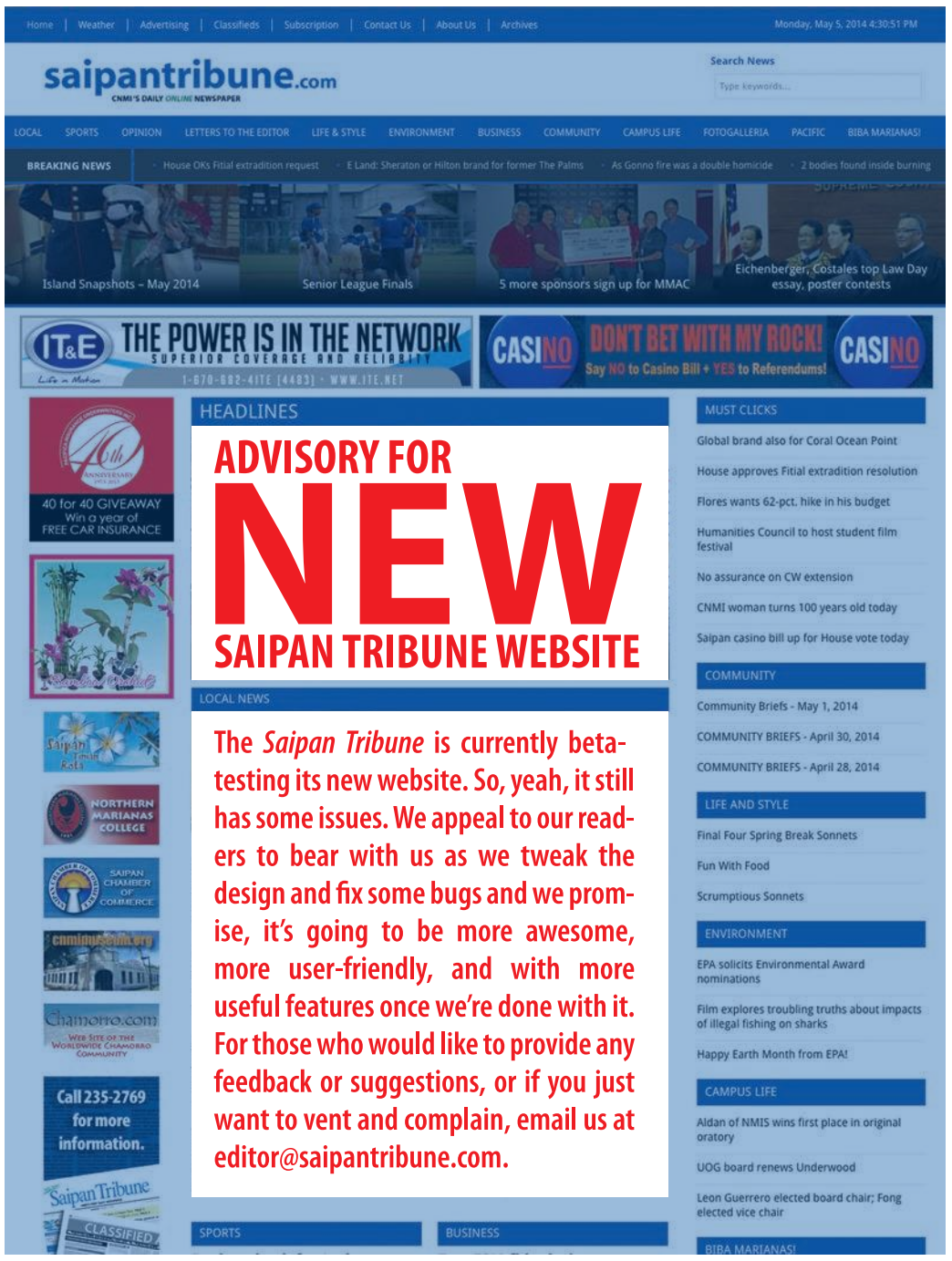
Local

CUC 'not receptive' to 45-day extension sought by PSS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BUSINESS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is not receptive to the Public School System's request that it be given a 45-day extension to come up with a payment plan for its longstanding arrears to CUC.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the extension is unnecessary since PSS already has in its books and records how much it owes the utility agency.

"I am not necessarily agreeable to that [45-day extension request]. I just want to know right now how they're going to pay their old debts with CUC. That should be simple enough to tell me, based on their financial situation," said Sablan, after a meeting with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials yesterday morning.

CUC wrote the Board of Education on April 23 demanding that public schools submit a meaningful payment plan within 15 days or else CUC may be forced to disconnect schools due to its mounting utility debts.

It was disclosed that the total past due balance owed by PSS to CUC is $7.18 million. This balance represents a principal amount of $6.38 million for electrical, water, and wastewater services and accrued late charges of $807,558. Late charges continue to accrue at the rate of 1 percent per month pursuant to CUC regulations.

Sablan earlier indicated that this PSS debt represents 31 percent of CUC's total receivables from government customers and about 26 percent of receivables from all customer classes (residential, commercial, and government accounts).

Two days later, on April 25, BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero responded to CUC's demand letter, asking for a 45-day extension.

Sablan pointed out, however, that PSS receives its bill every month and "surely, there's somebody in the organization that is tallying that amount.

"Frankly, they have known about their past due accounts to CUC. And I don't know why it would require 45 days to develop the plan on how they're going to pay for the old debts," Sablan added.

The CUC chairman said that PSS, which receives appropriation from the Legislature, could address its old accounts with CUC.

"PSS gets appropriation from the Legislature. Request for the right amount to pay utility bills… and we'd all be okay," he said.

Sablan was scheduled to meet with BOE's Guerrero yesterday afternoon to discuss the issue.

As for what he expects from this meeting, Sablan replied: "The only thing I am looking for is: tell me how you're going to pay the old debts. I am not looking for sad stories because it doesn't concern CUC. We just need to know clearly how they're going to address that."

Sablan admitted that CUC earlier rejected the memorandum of understanding inked by PSS and the central government, which targets to assign

See CUC on Page 4

Live births in NMI drop 5 percent in '13

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of infants who were born alive upon delivery at the Commonwealth Health Center registered a 4.7-percent decline in 2013, based on the Public School System Head Start Program community assessment report for school year 2013-2014.

Citing the "Live Birth" report obtained from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as of February 2014, the PSS report covered the trend in the last four years.

Records disclosed that in 2010, live births in the CNMI totaled 1,077. A decline was noted in the following year, 2011, when live births went down to 1,033. This went up again in 2012, when the count for the whole year totaled 1,106—the biggest recorded in the four-year period—and then plunged to 1,054 in 2013, which translates to a 4.7 percent decline from 2012.

"As per the Live Birth report from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Maternal and Child Health Bureau, 2012 was the largest population of live births in years 2010 through 2013 with an increase of 7 percent seen from the previous year. In 2013, live births decreased 4.7 percent from the previous year," states the report, which was recently adopted by the Board of Education.

The Head Start program is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive services to income eligible children and families. It has a funded enrollment of 462 every year.

The program's 2013-2014 community assessment provides updated demographic data, relevant community information to identify the strengths, needs and trends that impact on the design and implementation of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Among the specific questions addressed during the assessment process include: how many low-income, Head Start eligible children/families reside in the service area from birth to age 5. It also addresses the question about changes in the low-income population or demographics in the Head Start service area, and the community trends affecting families since the last community assessment, among others.

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'Of 16 NMC nursing graduates in 2012, only 3 pass NCLEX'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Graduates of the Northern Marianas College's nursing program posted a 33-percent passing rate in the National Council Licensure Examination in 2012, based on data recently presented to the Board of Regents.

Based on the April monthly report of NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart to the board, only three students who graduated in May 2012 from the nursing program successfully passed the national licensure exam for nurses.

The report indicated that NMC had 16 students that graduated from its nursing program in May 2012. Of this number, nine were tracked that took the NCLEX on their first try and only three passed.

NCLEX is an examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States. There are two types: the NCLEX-RN and the NCLEX-PN. After graduation from a school of nursing, one takes the NCLEX exam to receive his or her nursing license. A nursing license gives an individual permission to practice nursing, granted by the state where he or she meets the requirements.

"The pass rate for 2012 graduates is at 33 percent. The NCLEX-RN review course was offered by CDI during June/July 2012, but many of these graduates did not attend the review as they preferred to study on their own and avoid paying for an NCLEX-RN review course," states Hart's report, which was presented during last week's board meeting.

Hart's report also indicated that the nursing program is now initiating the implementation of the National League for Nursing Diagnostic Readiness Test, which predicts the student's probability of passing the NCLEX-RN exam and identifies the areas that need more attention, their studying or review becomes more effective, and the odds of NCLEX success increase when students know where their strength and weaknesses lie.

The initial date of implementation is set for May 9, 2014, according to the report.

"We have been considering the use of the National League for Nursing Diagnostic Readiness Test during Cycle 6 of Program Review. That consideration will soon materialize because on Feb. 7, 2014, PO (purchase order) was generated to purchase Diagnostic Readiness Test for RN booklets for our current nursing students to take in preparation for the NCLEX-RN exam after graduation," said the president's report.

Hart also reported that the college hired on Jan. 2 Yuhe Choi, a registered nurse, to work in the nursing department.

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Quichocho: Kim should get zero RICO award and not $225,000

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho has opposed businesswoman Jung Ja Kim's request to triple the damages awarded her in her Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act claim against him, his wife, law firm, and company.

In their opposition filed Friday in federal court, Quichocho and his counsel Michael Dotts said that to award Kim treble damages on each RICO theory is tantamount to triple recovery on alternative theories.

The lawyers said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should instead award Kim zero damages for the RICO claims because there is no basis in the record to justify the $25,000 award for each of the alternative RICO claims. Kim is asking the court to triple this amount to $225,000.

In the alternative, Quichocho and Dotts said, only a single, unitary award can be permitted for the multiple RICO claims.

Kim recently asked the court for at least $250,000 more on top of the jury's verdict that awarded her $2.4 million in connection with her racketeering lawsuit and other claims against Quichochos, his law firm, his wife Frances, and the couple's Karissa LLC company.

Kim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, asked the court to amend its final judgment to include an award of $225,000 instead of $75,000 for damages sustained under her RICO claims.

Kim also asked the court to award her attorney's fees attributable to the prosecution of her RICO claims and for an award of all costs incurred in the prosecution of all claims and the defense of the counterclaims filed by the Quichochos.

Thompson estimated Kim's attorney's fees in excess of $100,000. Attorney Robert T. Torres is Thompson's co-counsel for Kim in the trial.

Thompson said that under RICO's mandatory treble damages provisions, Kim is entitled to a damages award on her RICO claims of $75,000 times 3 or $225,000, in addition to all attorney's fees sustained in the prosecution of the claims.

The jury awarded Kim $25,000 each on her three RICO claims, for a total of $75,000 in damages.

In their opposition, Quichocho and Dotts said it is well established that a plaintiff cannot recover twice (let alone three times) for the same damage, yet this is precisely what Kim seeks to do.

"Double or duplicative recovery for the same items of damage amounts to overcompensation and is therefore prohibited," Quichocho and Dotts said.

Last March 28, nine jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding the Quichochos, his law firm, and Karissa LLC liable to pay Kim a total of $2,411,719.09 in damages.

The Quichochos prevailed only on one (legal fees) of their five counter-claims against Kim.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona subsequently approved the jury's judgment holding Quichocho, his wife Frances, his law firm, and their company Karissa LLC liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to Kim.

Manglona also approved the jury's verdict that found Kim liable to pay Quichocho and his law firm $48,221.67 in legal fees.

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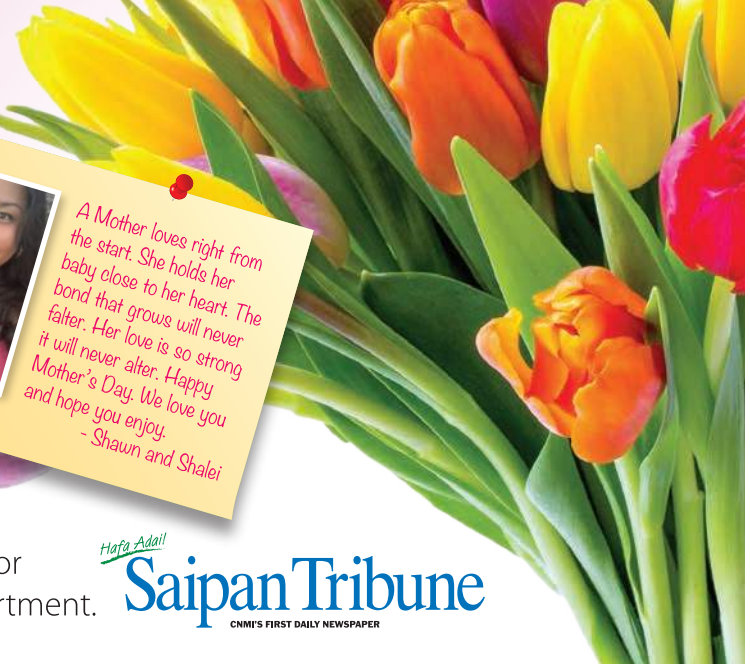
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ARTICLE 12

From Page 1

against House Legislative Initiative 18-4 admitted they have not read the measure, which was introduced in March 2013 and the committee report that was adopted last year. As a result, some of them thought that the initiative would immediately scrap Article 12 in its entirety.

The public comment period began at past 1:30pm and ended at almost 3:30pm. At about 5pm, the session was called to recess without acting on any bill or legislative initiative, except for a concurrent resolution on the fiscal year 2015 budget. The session resumes at 9:30am today.

Acting speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), author of HLI 18-4, said he hopes that people would carefully read the initiative before commenting on it. He said the initiative gives landowners the option to subject their land to Article 12 for "at least 25 years," before it could be removed.

"People can express their views without being disrespectful. …And I believe there are lots of miscommunication and misunderstanding about this initiative," he later said.

Former speaker Lorenzo Cabrera said the government needs in-depth investigation before acting on the Article 12 initiative. He also questioned whether the CNMI government can unilaterally terminate the alienation of land provision or Section 805 of the Covenant between the Northern Marianas and the United States.

Cabrera was the first of 16 members of the public who testified for or against HLI 18-4.

Like Cabrera, most of those who testified were either against HLI 18-4 or against Article 12 repeal, including Jesus Taisague, Antonio Mareham, Andrew Salas, Herman R. Deleon Guerrero, Joe Pangelinan, Kodep Uludong, Liana Hofschneider, Maggie Camacho, Lino Olopai, Melvin Faisao, John Oliver Gonzales, Richard Hofschneider, and Ralph Rangamar.

"There's not enough public education on this [initiative]. We should respect Article 12. These lands are passed on to us and should belong only to us," said Olopai, who threw away a copy of the initiative during the public comment period.

Olopai said that only indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians should vote on any Article 12 initiative. Richard Hofschneider, meanwhile, tore apart a copy of the initiative while commenting on the measure.

Former representative Andrew Salas, in his public comment, said lawmakers should "stand ready" to "make the right decisions for our people."

Salas, who is running for delegate, said those who are feeling the "pain" and "suffering" are mostly the indigenous people who are unemployed "and the only thing they have is their land."

Salas said the pain and suffering of these people will continue, "especially" when the CW program is extended and a proposed improved status for aliens is approved. Extending the CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, allows the CNMI continued access to some 10,000 foreign workers.

"Our people need jobs, not handouts. This is an NMD issue," Salas said, adding that these Article 12 issues are caused mainly by "businesses that are not from here."

Uludong, one of the best prepared to comment, eloquently spoke about the United Nations' declaration of the rights of indigenous people.

Alex Sablan and Vincent Seman were the only ones who testified in support of the initiative.

Seman, of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, said it's unfortunate that NMDs themselves have to sell their land for under $5,000 only to fellow NMDs when emergency arises such as for medical treatment of a family member.

He also spoke about lands in Kagman that were sold for less than $12,000 and less than $20,000 because of emergencies.

"We don't have any mechanism to protect ourselves from inside exploitation," Seman said, adding that Article 12 was crafted to protect landowners from outsiders' exploitation. Decades later, landowners also have to be protected from exploitation by their own people because of the limited pool of people that can buy lands.

Dela Cruz's initiative removes the mandatory restriction on land alienation "and allows landowners to elect to restrict the alienation of their own land."

"The restriction would be in place for at least 25 years before it could be removed. The initiative gives each landowner the option of either accepting or rejecting the restrictions of Article 12 in respect to their land," Dela Cruz's initiative reads.

If they so choose, landowners have to file a declaration of restriction describing the property with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

At least after 25 years after the filing, the owner in fee simple of restricted property may remove the restriction by filing a declaration of removal of that restriction.

One Article 12 initiative will already be on the ballot for voters' ratification this November. This is Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) proposed change to Article 12 to allow any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent who can own land in the CNMI.

Ogumoro said her measure will help ensure that NMDs will be able to pass on their land to their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and so on, even if they fall below the current 25-percent NMD blood requirement.

Meanwhile, the Citizens for Change of Article 12 also recently launched a signature drive to place an Article 12 question on the ballot this November. They said signing the petition between now and early June does not mean voting "yes" or "no" to keep or remove Article 12 restrictions, but only to give voters an opportunity in November to decide whether they want a constitutional amendment to remove the mandatory restriction or not.

CHC

From Page 1

erages about $540,000 a month.

"CHCC presented to us a plan that basically says what they could afford with regards to its cash flow. That plan was not accepted by us. What we wanted from them is to be current in their monthly consumption and give us some ideas how much they can retire from past due accounts," said Sablan.

The hospital reportedly owes CUC $11 million in past due accounts. This is on top of the corporation's current monthly consumption of nearly $540,000.

Yesterday's meeting was the second between both parties after CUC sent the healthcare corporation board an ultimatum on April 23. In that letter, the utility agency expressed willingness to delay asking for a court judgment on the collection lawsuit it filed against the CHCC if a "realistic" payment plan is presented to CUC.

Sablan reiterated yesterday CUC's strong position on the hospital's increasing utility obligation.

"Today, we gave them [CHCC] three months to develop a plan to cut down on utility consumption so they can live within their means. Basically, what we told them is: pay your current monthly bill and develop your plan within three months so that your consumption will be reduced from $539,000 to less than what your cash flow could afford," he said.

Sablan, however, pointed out that in this three-month period, CHCC has to stay current in its monthly billing.

Sablan disclosed that during yesterday's meeting, CHCC board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz was both cooperative and supportive in finding an immediate solution to the unpaid CUC obligations.

It was disclosed that Dela Cruz tasked corporation CEO Esther Muña to find ways and means to cut down on power consumption in non-essential services of the agency to a level equal to what it can pay CUC. Some of the ideas recommended is to turn off lights in some buildings and combine some departments to save on power costs.

"That's the standard business practice. You cannot consume something you aren't able to pay," said Sablan, lauding the commitment expressed by Dela Cruz.

In the event CHCC fails to keep current in its monthly billing, Sablan reiterated CUC's strong position on the issue.

"If they don't remain current, they will be disconnected. CUC may not turn off the morgue, may not turn off the operating room…but we will turn off everything else. If it means they have to operate with candle lights then so be it," he said.

Sablan disclosed that CHCC's old accounts were never discussed in yesterday's meeting.

"We didn't address the 'old accounts' until their plan [to cut down consumption] is implemented," he said.

CHCC has in its books some $17 million in receivables, which for both the CHCC board and the CUC board, is an area that could help the financial burden of the healthcare corporation. The CHCC board has been pushing the management to aggressively collect on these receivables.

CUC

From Page 2

and offset a portion of PSS' debt.

"Why don't they collect and pay us instead? If C owes B and B owes A, why you're telling A to go and collect from C?" he asked.

CUC has already filed a lawsuit to collect on PSS' arrears. Sablan earlier said that CUC is willing to delay the collection lawsuit if a "realistic" payment plan will be presented by the school system.

However, failure to make arrangements for payment of this amount within the next 15 days will leave CUC with no alternative but to consider further action, including but not limited to disconnection of services.

$60M

From Page 1

"Getting the two proposals today is a sign that there is really a great interest to develop this industry here and these two companies competing for this exclusive spot have really taken this risk and putting this money forward as a sign of their commitment," Demapan said.

The $30 million deposit—representing a two-year license fee for the winning applicant—will be used to restore retirees' 25-percent pension cut. If the Lottery Commission picks a winning applicant by June 19, then retirees would start getting their deferred pension a short time after that. The applicant who will not be chosen will get back its $30 million.

"On the government side, the good news is, from this sign of commitment [from investors] is also a promising sign for us in our effort to restore the 25-percent reduction for retirees retroactively, and for retirees to start earning a 100 percent moving forward," the press secretary added.

Counsel Jim Stump received the business plans yesterday, Demapan said.

The applications will be turned over to the Lottery Commission for their review "as to their completeness and evaluation."

"The Lottery Commission is moving forward in an expeditious manner to provide professional evaluation of the applications and is committed to meeting the statutory requirements of a June 19th date for license award," the administration said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a statement, said the Lottery Commission has a "significant task" ahead but they are taking appropriate steps to bring additional resources to their review process.

"This is a significant undertaking and the commission is being careful that they properly evaluate these proposals to ensure that the long-term interest of our people will be properly considered," the governor said.

Demapan, in responding to media questions, said yesterday afternoon's Lottery Commission meeting did not have a proper advance public notice, so it would be rescheduled for Thursday afternoon after sufficient public notice is posted.

Moreover, as of yesterday, a casino investigator and a gaming consultant have not been hired to help in the application review process and the drafting of the casino regulations, among other things.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), main author of the Saipan casino bill, said he's elated that the two applicants did turn in their business plan and deposited $30 million each in escrow, which he said shows the investor groups' commitment.

"And it's a sign of hope for the retirees," Demapan said.

He reiterated that he's grateful for his colleagues at the Legislature for passing a major revenue-generating bill—the casino legislation—to help address the government's funding shortfall for many of its obligations.

"It's also going to be interesting to know which of the applicants will be granted an exclusive license to operate a casino on Saipan," the House floor leader added.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), like Demapan, said he's glad that both applicants turned in their business plan and deposited the required money. He cited, among other things, a guaranteed restoration of retirees' 25-percent pension cut.

"Now the Lottery Commission has to do its job to review and evaluate these proposals and choose. In the end, it's sad that one [applicant] has to go," he said, referring to the investor group that won't be selected.

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) separately said while he's glad there's already a guaranteed source of funds to restore one year's worth of deferred 25 percent pension, he's concerned about "future pension cuts."

"Will there really be continuity of the 100 percent pension?" he asked.

For decades, casino gaming has been legal only on Tinian and Rota. But the Senate's passage in March of a House Saipan casino bill paved the way for legalization of casino gaming on Saipan.

Because of non-disclosure clauses, the government is prohibited from making public details about the applicants as well as their business proposals unless the applicants themselves choose to make them public.

An independent research on the two applicants shows that Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. is "partly" owned by Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., the new owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Marianas Stars has been incorporated in the CNMI and is licensed to do business here. Cario Hon, chief executive officer of Mega Stars, earlier said Marianas Stars may issue a statement about their plan at a later time.

Best Sunshine International Ltd., meanwhile, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Best Sunshine International Ltd. listed in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

As early as February, First Natural Foods/Best Sunshine already announced it has "been in contacts and discussions with certain parties in relation to several eco-tourism, entertainment and gaming business." On April 15, First Natural Foods announced a proposal to change its name to "Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd." to provide a better identification for the company as it further diversifies its business including eco-tourism, entertainment, and gaming business.

Best Sunshine has yet to be incorporated in the CNMI and has yet to apply for a CNMI business license. The media saw Best Sunshine's executive director, identified as Helen Shin, at the governor's office late yesterday afternoon.

Court issues default judgment vs ex-cop in hit-and-run case

The federal court issued yesterday a default judgment in favor of a woman who had sued a terminated police officer for hitting her with the police vehicle he was driving.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge and Clerk of Court Heather L. Kennedy issued an entry of default against Martin Ilo Kapileo after the latter failed to respond to Mayona S. Bergosa's lawsuit.

Kennedy said an examination of the record and pleadings in the case shows that Kapileo had been served with Bergosa's complaint and summons as required by law.

Bergosa, through her lawyer, Michael W. Dotts, recently asked the court to enter a default judgment against Kapileo for not responding to her complaint.

Dotts said the summons and complaint were served on Kapileo on Dec. 5, 2013, at the Department of Corrections by John S. Vega of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Dotts said the 20-day period to respond or file an answer was on Dec. 25, 2013.

Bergosa filed the lawsuit last November. She is suing Kapileo for negligence. She asked the court to hold Kapileo liable to pay her more than $75,000 in damages for her medical expenses, pain, and suffering.

Kapileo was convicted in Superior Court of five traffic offenses over the hit-and-run incident that occurred in Dandan on Oct. 27, 2012. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho slapped him with a five-year prison sentence and a $1,800 fine.

According to Dotts in the complaint, Bergosa was walking home by the side of Dandan Road near Just Laundry on Oct. 27, 2012, at 12:56pm, when she was hit from behind by a vehicle.

Dotts said it was Kapileo who was driving a Department of Public Safety patrol car that hit Bergosa.

The lawyer said Kapileo, who was then a police officer, fled in the patrol car.

Dotts said it was the patrol car's rearview mirror on the passenger side that hit the Bergosa in the back of her head.

"The force of the impact resulted in plaintiff's injuries to her head, back, neck, knee, and leg," Dotts said.

Bergosa's laundry and cellphone were scattered on the ground and were also damaged.

Dotts said an ambulance was called and Bergosa was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Corporate Challenge set for May 25

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now gearing up for the 2014 Corporate Challenge and is urging companies to register.

This year's Corporate Challenge will take place on May 25, Sunday, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

The company tent setup will take place a day before the event on May 24, Saturday, from 8am to 5pm. The event will officially start the following day, Sunday, from 8am to 5pm.

SCC's Corporate Challenge provides fun, games, sizzling barbecue, corporate displays, music, a company outing opportunity, and worn out team players by day's end.

Registration fee is set at $300 per team and all proceeds will go to SCC's scholarship fund and educational endeavors.

Deadline for registration is on May 9, Friday, at 5pm and participation is limited to the first 20 teams to register.

Team roster and waiver forms must be dropped at SCC's office no later than May 21.

If participants exceed six, additional copies for sign up must be made.

The 2014 Corporate Challenge is hosted to celebrate the workforce of the CNMI.

Last year's teams included FHP/TakeCare, ASC Trust, DFS Galleria, G4S Security, IT&E, Coca Cola/Glimpses, IP&E, Triple J Enterprises/ Hertz, Fiesta Resort, CUC, MarPac Distributors, Delta Management, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Xerox Corp., and Saipan Shipping Co.

FHP/TakeCare Insurance topped last year's Corporate Challenge, which was a softball competition.

In related news, the Saipan Chamber's general meeting will be held this Wednesday, May 7, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle at 11:30am.

Team captains meeting for the Corporate Challenge is scheduled for May 12, at 3:30pm.

For more information contact SCC administrator and planner Emi H. Agulto call (670) 233-7150 or contact via email at coordinator@saipan-chamber.com.

Manglona orders Bellas to continue efforts to resolve GOB's tax matter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered attorney Timothy H. Bellas yesterday to continue his efforts to resolve the Garment Oversight Board's tax matter with the Internal Revenue Service informally.

Manglona also ordered Bellas, as administrator of the Garment Residual Charitable Fund, to report to the court by July 11, 2014, if he is unable to resolve the tax matter with the IRS.

Manglona is satisfied that Bellas made diligent efforts to resolve the GOB tax matter.

The lawyer was also directed to continue safeguarding the GRCF funds still in his trust account until further court orders.

Regarding the donation of $98,700 in GRCF money to 19 charitable groups, the judge said she reviewed the submission and the supporting documentation and is satisfied that the funds were properly disbursed to the organizations, as authorized by the court's Feb. 20, 2014, order.

Bellas used to serve as chairman of the GOB, which was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in a class action against the CNMI's garment industry.

In GRCF's interim report filed last week in court, Bellas disclosed that he donated a total of $98,700 in residual money from the class action to 19 charitable organizations. He said the net amount remaining in trust for the GRC is $14,940.21.

In that same report, Bellas also discussed GOB's tax matter. He said he has made several inquiries in an effort to resolve the residual tax matter with various branches/ divisions of the IRS. "None of those efforts have proved meaningful," Bellas said.

He said he has been unable to contact someone with sufficient legal background to be able to comprehend the unique circumstances of the GOB and its creation.

Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* last week that IRS asked for $4,000 in Social Security contributions for some of the money that was given away by GOB.

Bellas said he previously wrote to IRS, explaining that the GOB is not an employer.

He said IRS then went back to him, telling him that GOB should pay double because of penalty.

Bellas said if this attempt to resolve the matter by negotiation and settlement ultimately proves unsuccessful within the next 60 days, he shall seek further guidance from the court on how to proceed in closing this matter.

The federal court closed the GOB in October 2008. The Garment Workers Trust Fund was then formed, which Bellas also chaired. In June 2010, the U.S. District Court for the NMI approved the final report of the Garment Workers Trust Fund and closed the file.

In November 2013, the federal court appointed Bellas to distribute the residual funds that were previously held in trust for a contingent liability that never required payment.

In January 2010, Bellas also donated a total of $625,000 to 14 non-profit organizations on Saipan. In June 2010, the remaining balance of $5,314.07 was donated to the Friends of the Library.

Mariana Resort donates $1,500 to Stellar Marianas

JAYSON CAMACHO

Marianas Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh, center, and property manager Charlene Babauta, right, present a ceremonial check for $1,540 to Stellar Marianas members led by president Laila Boyer, second from left.

Mariana Resort & Spa donated $1,540 to the islands' non-profit pageant and talent group, Stellar Marianas, yesterday afternoon in Marpi.

Marianas Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh and property manager Charlene Babauta presented the check to Stellar Marianas members led by president Laila Boyer.

Cavanagh noted that Marianas Resort decided to raise money for Stellar Marianas by selling optional game cards, mulligans, putts, and a sand wedge.

"We decided to raise money for the Stellar Marianas through our golf tournament that we held last Saturday before our 36th anniversary party," Cavanagh said.

She noted that the golf tournament was no ordinary tournament but an obstacle course that included various workings and trick methods and golf course holes.

Boyer was thankful and grateful for the generous donation received from Mariana Resort.

"We thank Mariana Resort because it shows that they are a strong community partner in making contributions," Boyer said.

"All the funds will go to ensure that our beautiful young women competing in the Miss Marianas Teen will have a great experience and as well as going to community projects that we will be doing throughout the year," she added.

This year's Miss Marianas Teen candidates are Maria Theresa Dizon, Nemerlyn Magat, Marcelyn Castro, Aiko Enungel, Sheena Serrano, Chelsea Fama, Renita Fleming, Allysha Lloren, Gianna Camacho, Tiana Reyes, Emmalou Cabrera, Lynette Vasquez, Savannah Delos Santos, Aurora David, Jacklyn Garote, and Michelle Faller. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

BEH closes down 3 establishments

The Bureau of Environmental Health closed down three establishments in April due to serious violations of health and sanitation standards.

The New Ming Palace Restaurant in Garapan was closed down on March 31 but it soon reopened on April 2 after the violations were rectified. The Kazan Restaurant in Garapan was closed on March 31, but soon reopened on April 2, while Pretty Restaurant, also in Garapan, was closed on April 23, but soon reopened on April 30.

The bureau also conducted sanitary inspections in April on the following retails, eating and drinking establishments and their grades are as follow:

GRADE "A"

- Tasty Catering, Susupe
- Club Pink, Garapan
- LKR Retail Store, San Antonio
- Hafa Adai Beach Hotel (outlets), Garapan
- Himawari Restaurant, Garapan
- Joeten Dandan, Dan Dan
- Nami Restaurant, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel (outlets), Garapan
- Hollywood Theaters, San Jose
- New Ming Palace, Garapan
- Imoya Restaurant, San Jose
- Pete's BBQ, Koblerville
- Down Town Market, San Jose
- KB Market, Koblerville
- Buenas Café, Garapan
- Konbetsa Kafe, Dan Dan
- Publix Market, Susupe
- King's Club, Garapan
- Subway Restaurant, Garapan
- Subway Restaurant, Chalan Piao
- Dionysus Bar & Grill, Garapan
- Shinsen Restaurant, Garapan
- J&N Mini Mart, Tanapag
- Chungiwa Restaurant, Garapan
- Fine Tree Catering, Dan Dan
- Joeten Susupe Shopping Center, Susupe
- Joeten Aiko's Deli Restaurant, Susupe
- San Antonio Supermarket, San Antonio
- Sunshine Garden Restaurant, Susupe
- Skyway Café, Airport Road
- Kazan Restaurant, Garapan
- Lyn's BBQ Stand, Garapan
- Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, San Jose
- Han Nam Supermarket, Koblerville
- Philippine Goods Store & BBQ Stand, San Jose

GRADE "B"

- New XO Market (Baking/Butcher), Gualo Rai
- Joeten Susupe Shopping Center (Butcher), Susupe

There may have been changes to these grades since this information was released. For update information, call Bureau of Environmental Health at 664-4870/2 or fax 664-4871. ***(PR)***

THE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS
RECRUITMENT FAIR FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015.

Positions needed are:

1. Classroom Teachers for Kinder through 5th for Elementary, Middle School and High School in various content are (English, Science, Math, Technology, Career and Technical Education (Cooperative Education Teachers), Special Education
2. School Counselor Positions
3. Mental Health Service

The recruitment fairs are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the dates listed below.

Saipan Dates		Rota Dates		Tinian Dates	
May 08-09, 2014	Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club	May 15	VTC Room, Sinapalo Elementary School	May 15	TJSHS
June 26-27, 2014	Multi-purpose	June	RHI	June	TIN
July 17-18, 2014	Multi-purpose				
August 7-8, 2014	Multi-purpose				

Contact Info:

CNMI PSS Human Resources Office
P.O. Box 501370 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 670-237-3031/59,79,52
Fax: 670-664-3707
psshr@cnmipss.org

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed this Friday

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. office will be closed this Friday, May 9, 2014, from 8amto 5pm for staff development. ***(NMPASI)***

NMI preps for Memorial Day rites

The CNMI will be celebrating Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2014, at 9am at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. The Veterans Affairs director and its committee will be paying tribute to our fallen heroes and is inviting the immediate families to join with the community in paying tribute to them. The immediate family is being asked to call the Veterans Affairs Office for details at 664-2650/2659 or 287-5351. ***(PR)***

Memorial Week proclamation signing

The Office of the Governor and the Veterans Affairs Office has scheduled a Memorial Week proclamation signing on Monday, May 19, 2014, 10am, at the Office of the Governor's conference room. All veterans, active and reserved military personnel, family members of those departed veterans, and the general public are invited to come and join this proclamation signing. ***(PR)***

Do Re Mi Music School sets Annual Concert

The Do Re Mi Music School is having its 22nd Annual Concert on May 9 and 10, from 7pm to 9pm each evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Tickets are available by calling 233-7777 and will also be available at the door: $10 for adults and $5 for children. The concert will include pieces from Tchaikovsky, Paganini, Wentawski and Mendelssohn, among others. ***(PR)***

MHS seniors' schedule of events

■ Service Learning due May 23, 2014, to your counselor.

■ Senior Portfolio due June 6, 2014, to your first period teacher. If you do not have first period, submit it to your counselor. (Service Learning Hours must be included in your portfolio)

■ Cap and gowns can be picked up during weekdays 7:30am-8:30am and 3pm-4pm. If you did not place an order and want to try to purchase one, see Ms. Tudela on May 9, 2014, at 7:30am. It will be on a first come, first served basis.

■ Last day for seniors is on June 6, 2014

■ Graduation practices will be from June 9 to 11, 2014 at 8:30am in the school gym.

■ Awards ceremony will be on Friday, June 13, 2014, at 9am, in the school gym. Seniors who are interested in applying for awards must turn in their résumé, which will include the highlights of their high school career. Résumés must be submitted by May 23, 2014, to Ms. Cabrera. Awards: Governor's Award, Mayor's Award, Outstanding Female Graduate, Principal's Award, U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete's Award, U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, and Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence

■ Graduation will be on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 4pm in the school gym (graduates are asked to be there by 3pm).

■ Last day for underclassmen will be on Thursday, June 19, 2014. ***(MHS)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 6 and 8, from 9am to 3pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 7, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2014 Second General Membership meeting on Friday, May 9, 2014 at Latte Stone, Kanoa Resort at 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2014 First Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2013
V. Reports
- a. SRC Chairperson
- b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
- c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
- d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
- e. Transportation, Housing, and Advocacy Committee Chairperson
- f. OVR Director

VI. Old Business
- a. Guest Speaker: Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

VII. New Business
- a. Monitoring Review
- b. Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment
- c. FY 2015 State Plan Updates
- d. OVR Orientation Schedule
- e. SRC Member Attendance Review
- f. E-Rehab SRC Training Series

VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more information, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman
Chairman

DOL begins planning for semi-annual job fairs

Responding to the call under U.S. Public Law 110-229 for the transition of foreign workers, the CNMI Department of Labor has begun preparations for the next job fairs to be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In addition to this effort, the department from its last publication on Jan. 17, 2014, of 5,000-plus uncertified résumés, to date a total of 2,079 résumés have been certified with expected completion date of July 2014 for the remaining.

The department continues to push forward with its transformation initiatives, improvement of services to job-seeking individuals, referrals of status qualified participants to job openings that they are deemed qualified for, and consistent monitoring and compliance of CNMI labor laws.

The department appreciates employers for closely working with the respective CNMI DOL divisions and looks forward to stronger and increased employment opportunities for status qualified participants with all CNMI employers.

In consideration of high school students exiting for their summer break, the job fair for Saipan is tentatively planned for June 19-21, 2014, Tinian on July 18, 2014, and Rota on July 25, 2014. Any change in the job fair schedules the department will publish the information accordingly.

The department also encourages businesses to participate in the free OSHA On-Site Consultation Services for their workplace safety and health program. This program is funded under a Cooperative Agreement with the US DOL Occupational Safety and Health Administration Region 9 San Francisco. ***(PR)***

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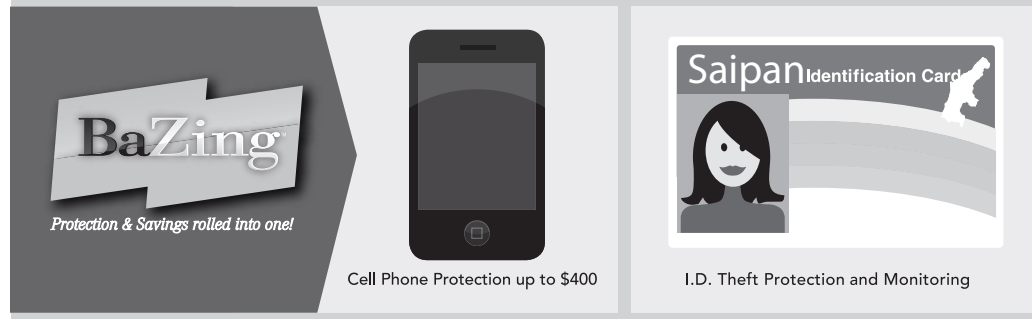
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1 The monthly service charge for Secure Checking is $6 per month, and the minimum deposit to open a Secure Checking account and receive the grocery tote bags is $100 (or just $5 with direct deposit). You will receive the tote bags as a gift when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch and open a new (not converted) Secure Checking account. Offer not valid for business or corporate accounts. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one set of tote bags per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 6/30/14, or when supplies are exhausted.
2 The BaZing Protection Package is provided by StrategyCorps, LLC and its affiliates and contractors, and is not provided or endorsed by First Hawaiian Bank. The package is subject to terms and conditions that are available on BaZing.com. Certain benefits require you to register at BaZing.com. If, within 90 days after you open your Secure Checking account, you notify us that you no longer want the package, you may close or convert your Secure Checking account and we will refund the applicable fees.
3 FHB Online access through Quicken® or QuickBooks® is $9.95/month. Optional Online Banking Features may incur additional fees. See Terms & Conditions of FHB Online Services for more details.
4 Annual Rent to be prepaid and automatically deducted from a First Hawaiian Bank checking or savings account. Offer cannot be combined with other safe deposit box discounts, offers, or promotions. Safe deposit box contents are not insured by First Hawaiian Bank, the FDIC, or any other government agency. Rental is based on availability.
5 Receive a $10 statement credit when you sign up to receive eStatements for your checking account by June 30, 2014. To be eligible for the statement credit, account(s) must not have been already enrolled in eStatements as of 5/1/14. Look for the $10 credit on your statement approximately 6-8 weeks after you signed up to receive eStatements. Your account must be open at the time the reward is credited. Limit: One $10 statement credit per account. Please note that, when you sign up to receive eStatements, you will no longer receive paper statements unless you elect for the option to receive both eStatements and paper statements for an added monthly fee. Additional terms and conditions related to eStatements apply.

MVA joins Guam Travel & Island Fairs

MVA
Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman distributes information and answers questions at the 10th Annual Joint Military Travel Fair on April 23, 2014, at Naval Base Guam.

MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority joined other Micronesia destinations to share promotional information during the Guam Micronesia Island Fair on April 25-27, 2014, at Ypao Park.

The Marianas Visitors Authority conducted promotions in Guam last weekend, targeting both military personnel and their families and the general public.

The 10th Annual Joint Military Fairs were conducted on April 23 and 24, 2014. The first fair was conducted at the Coral Reef Fitness Center at Andersen Air Force Base, with an estimated 850 attendees. The second fair was held on April 24 at the Charles King Fitness Center at Naval Base Guam, with approximately 550 attendees.

The MVA also distributed information about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Guam Micronesia Island Fair on April 25-27 at Ypao Park. The MVA joined other Micronesian destinations under the umbrella of Pacific Asia Travel Association, Micronesia Chapter.

"The MVA's participation in the annual military travel fairs—and the Micronesia Island Fair this year, too—is our greatest opportunity to meet face-to-face with prospective travelers from Guam," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "With funding now available as a result of last year's new hotel occupancy tax law, there is an excellent opportunity for the municipalities of Rota and Tinian to also develop charter flights to attract more visitors from Guam, and we support that."

Over 2,000 people attended the Guam Micronesia Island Fair. ***(MVA)***

Lamkin joins 3 Fil-Am leaders in state dinner for Obama

On April 28, 2014, Filipino-Americans and overseas Filipinos in the U.S. mainland, CNMI, and Guam were represented by Fil-Am leaders of the US Pinoys for Good Governance during the State Dinner for President Barack Obama at the Malacañang Palace on April 28, 2014.

Only five Filipino-Americans were invited to represent the Fil-Ams in the U.S., CNMI, and Guam. They were US Pinoys for Good Governance national chair Loida Nicolas Lewis, USP4GG spokesperson and legal counsel Ted Laguatan, USP4GG president Rodel Rodis, USP4GG Marianas chapter chair for CNMI and Guam Dr. Celia Lamkin, and USP4GG member from New Jersey Vonz Santos. Only Rodis was not able to attend the dinner.

All Cabinet secretaries, Philippine Vice President Jejomar Binay, former president Fidel Ramos, ambassadors, senators, business executives, diplomats, among others, were among the more than 300-person guests at the state dinner.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left: Attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, Dr. Celia Lamkin, and Secretary Imelda Nicolas of the Commission of Filipinos Overseas, Office of the President of the Philippines.

In his toast, President Benigno Aquino III said, "Mr. President, on behalf of the Filipino people, I welcome you and your delegation to the Philippines. Though your stay here in our country may be short, I hope that it will allow you to see and experience for yourself how, indeed, it is more fun in the Philippines and that undoubtedly the Philippines works. Your presence here today reaffirms the strong bond between our nations. As a friend and partner of the Filipino people, Mr. President, you have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the growth and development of our nation. It is only fitting, therefore, that your efforts be recognized with the conferment of the Order of Sikatuna. Mr. President, through this brief visit of yours, I am confident that you have witnessed firsthand how such values, our shared beliefs and principles, can transform a society as it has ours."

In his response, Obama said, "Mr. President, I am deeply honored to receive the Order of the Sikatuna. I accept it in the spirit in which it is bestowed with a commitment to continuing to deepen the bonds between our two great nations. I have only been here one day, but the kindness that you've shown and the extraordinary hospitality that's been extended to us leaves us with very warm feelings and reflects I think the legendary spirit of the Filipino people. I am told that you have a word to describe this—that inner feeling, that core of a person's being—*kalooban*. We see this spirit in a family that's given itself to this country. We also see the spirit of this nation in all that you have overcome—colonialism, and occupations, invasion and dictatorship. Yours is a fierce independence won through sacrifice and renewed with each generation. And we saw that again this year. After Yolanda, Americans grieved with you. But we were inspired by your resilience and your determination to care for those who had been affected. You bring that same strength and solidarity to our alliance. So let me say tonight, on behalf of the American people, we are honored and proud to call you an ally and a friend. Through our Treaty Alliance, the United States has ironclad commitment to defend you, your security, and your independence.

Obama also shared with Aquino their mutual obsession with basketball and mutual admiration for Manny Pacquiao.

Nicolas Lewis said that Obama's visit to the Philippines, as the last leg of his Asian trip, "signifies how important it is to conserve and strengthen our alliance with the United States in all aspects—political, economic, business, and territorial integrity. It will give pause to China's aggressive actions against the Philippines vis a vis their bogus claim of nine-dash line ownership of the West Philippine Sea."

Laguatan states that Obama's timely visit to South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, and the Philippines gives an important message to these countries as well as to China. "His message to China: We respect and even support your aspirations to be a great country and have a better life for your people but you don't have to intimidate and coerce your neighbors in order to accomplish these noble objectives. Play by the rules and also respect their legitimate aspiration. Let conflicts be resolved peacefully, and through proper avenues.

"His message to the countries he visited: We will stand by your in legitimate defense of your territories and resources. Obama gives a very strong impression of a world leader who understands that beyond all local interest is the primary interest of the human race to avoid a deadly war that…would devastate our planet," added Laguatan.

"It was indeed a historic and memorable event for me because I was invited by President Benigno Aquino III to be with the State Dinner for President Obama," said Lamkin. "As one of the only four Filipino-Americans to be present in this State Dinner for President Obama, I am sharing this pride and honor with all Filipinos in the CNMI, Guam, U.S., and all overseas Filipinos." ***(PR)***

NAIC appeals for ACA flexibility for territories

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners sent a letter to President Barack Obama to encourage the investigation of steps necessary to provide flexibility to territories on the applicability of the Affordable Care Act, and to quickly resolve the problems altogether.

The NAIC support is a result of territory commissioners requesting more flexibility on health care reform from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Inos

The Affordable Care Act, in amending the Public Health Service Act, extended health insurance market reform provisions of the ACA to all territories, including the CNMI, but left out other significant supporting components that ensure "affordability" and "premium-stabilization," resulting in a reluctance of the CNMI health insurance industry to offer new plans in such an unstable market.

Under the ACA, no health insurance carrier is allowed to issue non ACA-compliant health insurance in the individual and small group market; they must file all health insurance rates for approval before use, they must include the essential health benefits prescribed by the finalized HHS regulations, they are not allowed to deny applicants with limited exceptions, and must comply with other new strict rules. Insurance carriers have expressed that complying with all of the new 2014 rules would open their businesses up to many new risks. As a result, carriers are currently renewing 2013 active insured only, if authorized through the office of the insurance commissioner, and not offering new insurance policies (for individual markets) or plans (for small group markets).

Although the directive from the President and the follow-up letter from NAIC is more clear and comforting than prior messages from HHS, Gov. Eloy S. Inos will continue to push for alternative flexibility and all options albeit legislative or administrative, and most importantly for our ability to have the choice, individually or collectively as U.S. territories, to decide on feasible and realistic options, whilst retaining the authority to regulate overall insurance industry and prevent federal enforcement of health insurance laws in the CNMI.

"As much as we embrace the ACA benchmark and philosophy of healthcare affordability, premium stabilization, and availability, it is prematurely extended to us, in its current form," added Inos. "Clearly, if the intent of Congress is to extend the ACA to the territories then all adverse selection mitigating provisions would have been made available to territories in the beginning—whether as an option or full mandate."

"With our President's direct involvement, I am hopeful that he will 'change his calculus' and hear our plea that the current health care reform extension to our CNMI is mathematically and actuarially difficult to implement with market reforms only," added Inos.

Available economic and actuarial reports for both opponents and proponents of health care reform agree that the ACA, as it is currently extended to the CNMI, is guaranteed to cause adverse selection in the CNMI and is not feasible without an exorbitant local financial drain.

"The industry is pleased that the NAIC followed up with President Obama by sending a letter requesting that his administration investigate steps that can be taken to alleviate the unintended problems that are now being faced in the Territories as a result of the ACA," said Eric Plinske, branch manager for StayWell Insurance in the CNMI.

The Guam and CNMI health insurance industry supports the NAIC proposed idea of allowing health plans in the territories to not only renew policies that were in effect prior to 2014, but to also allow new policies to be sold as long as they meet the 2013 ACA provisions. The 2014 ACA provisions caused all four Guam-based regional insurance companies to stop selling new individual and small group policies since there are no mandates, health insurance exchange, sufficient federal premium subsidies, or a federal risk mitigation program for the insurance industry (risk adjustment, risk corridors, and reinsurance programs).

Plinske added that if the transitional period through 2016 would allow health plans in Guam and the CNMI to sell new policies that meet the 2013 ACA provisions, rather than 2014 ACA provisions, the regional insurance companies would likely start selling new individual and small group plans immediately. Absent of any health insurance association in the CNMI, Plinske has been very active in representing the health carriers and sharing information to all four CNMI health insurance issuers selling insurance in the small group market: TakeCare, NetCare (Moylans), Island Homes (Staywell), and Tokyo Marine (SelectCare/Calvo's).

For more information, contact Commerce at 664-3077 or email sec.igisomar@commerce.gov.mp. You may also contact the Consumer Assistance Program to learn more about health care reform in the CNMI at 664-3005 or advocacyoffice@commerce.gov.mp. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) F&B Manager
Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred plus minimum of four years experience as an assistant F&B Manager or F&B Manager capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Managerial duties include instructing; assigning, reviewing and planning work of others; maintaining standards; coordinating activities; allocating recommending and approving employee promotions, transfers and discipline, and recommending discharge. Inspects restaurant, picnic areas and cart groupings for safety, food quality and presentation, associate and guest interaction, and organization and cleanliness of front lines, kitchen and storage areas, etc. Conducts training on employees relating to the F&B Operation. Recommends the purchase of additional / replacement equipment; obtains price quotes for and purchases supplies and other food / non-food products. Ensures locations prepare, present, and serve food on a timely basis. Ensure areas are monitored and any variance from specifications corrected. Coordinated with Executive Chef on Food Purchasing area to develop, set, and review menu cost, retail pricing and recipe cards including creating new food menu items and ways to present food attractively. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early morning, evenings, holidays and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than May 21, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-023 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Assistant Engineer
(Mechanical)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Senior Engineer or his/her designee. Assists in the designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned pieces of projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION(S): Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $ 23,200.00 per annum - $ 32,574.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-024 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Chief Engineer for the Water and Wastewater Division or his/her designee. Uses advanced technical computer applications to support engineering functions of the Division. Compiles As-Built drawings and expertly incorporates the data into existing composite system drawings. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION:
- Main Office at Joeten Dandan; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Sadog Tasi Offices of Water and Wastewater; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Fieldwork on Saipan and temporary projects on Tinian and Rota also possible, but the primary place of work will be at the CUC main office, which is currently located at the Joeten Dandan building.

SALARY: $19,425.00 to $26,789.50 per annum; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management or Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or Civil Engineering. Three years of senior engineering technician experience. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-025 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Foreperson
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Serves as a foreperson, leading a team of workers - assigning and monitoring work and providing technical direction. Trouble shooting and Problem Solving. Plans work and prepares daily schedules and submits for approval. Responsible for teams output and productivity. Performs inspections and monitors subordinates work. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $21,104 to $30,601.00 per annum.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience in the area assigned (in this case, Mechanic), including one year of experience leading a crew. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-026 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Machinist)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case machinist. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-027 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Welder)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case welder. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-028 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Electrician)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-029 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-030 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Operator)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Three (3).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible and proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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YESTERDAY, UPON THE STAIR, I MET A MAN WHO WASN'T THERE. HE WASN'T THERE AGAIN TODAY...
BENGHAZI
HILLARY
I WISH, I WISH HE'D GO AWAY.

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ramon Blas Camacho is president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Association and chairman of the 2014 Saipan Agriculture Fair. This column was submitted celebration of Saipan's 31st Agriculture Fair.

Buy fresh, buy local!

» A call for a coherent policy on food sustainability and security in agriculture in the CNMI

Second of a five-part series

Being members of the local farming community for over 10 years should give us every reason to be proud of the legacy and success of the local food production industry. For not only has the local agriculture sector taken roots but, more importantly, makes its imprint in the Commonwealth's overall economic development footprint. Our quest for a strong agriculture industry unmatched since the second World War calls for a fully functioning farmers' cooperative enterprise, an idea that found early advocacy in a group of local Farmers Support Group formed back in 2009 with the land grant college at NMC; the group planned and executed NMC CREES-sponsored summit, which examined "Existing Agricultural Issues and Barriers and Market Opportunities" at the Saipan World Resort. Following the first agriculture summit, the idea for a cooperative advanced and moved beyond advocacy in the 2010 Department of Land and Natural Resources-sponsored second summit held at the Lao Lao Bay Resort, which focused on "Reviving a Sustainable Local Agricultural Industry in the CNMI." The second summit brought in individuals who shared actual local case studies and local best practices in Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Later on in January 2011, Saipan farmers presented the governor a petition to designate a local public market under the management of DLNR and use congressionally-designated funds earmarked by the CNMI delegate for the Garapan public market. In March that year, OIA, in partnership with the CNMI Department of Commerce, hosted an Economic Restoration Summit on "Industries for our Future." Featured prominently was agriculture as an emerging industry in the CNMI. DLNR, in November 2011, also sponsored a conference at Fiesta Resort on "Strengthening Specialty Crops Competitiveness and Marketability."

Seeing the active advocacy for agriculture in the CNMI, OIA awarded the CNMI $1 million through Commerce for workforce training and other economic enhancement programs: $46,000 was awarded to Sabalu in January 2012, in partnership with CREES to formally pursue a local cooperative business model for local farmers.

Today, two years following the most recent training on agriculture cooperative since 2009, our local farmers remain united, steadfast, and focused in helping the CNMI sustain our local food production industry beyond its initial subsistence capacity. The local farmers demonstrated their unity and resolve last week through the formation a CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association "to expand the economic opportunities for local farmers" that includes effectively managing freshness and quality appearance produce through value-added conversions and immediate use in restaurants and community kitchens. To be successful in this evolving industry

See BUY on Page 13

Tuhao, China's *nouveau riche*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Tuhao combines the words for "dirt" and "splendor" to form a word for China's *nouveau riche,* derisively used by the French for their bourgeoisie and now used to designate the new countryside rich without the cultural urban refinement of the moneyed city folks. I gather that the term *braggadocio* among the rap groups fit into this definition. "Money is what I go for and when I get, I make the world go round!"

I live in the first batch of apartment housing when Shenyang decided to create its satellite cities outside its immediate city limits. For the geography familiar, Shenhe District is the city proper north of the Hun He (*he* is "river"), housing the Gugong Palace, the old Manchu administrative center, while the Qing Dynasty's cemetery is north, now UNESCO-designated as the Beiling Park.

Huanggu northwest and Dadong northeast are the old residential areas. The new satellite cities are Tiexi in the west, Heping in the south, Hunan in the southwest, a Dadong extension in the east, and Shenbei in the north where Daoyi hosts an extensive university system. I taught in one of universities before moving out to the old Shenbei center where four generational layers of high-rise housing is evident.

One can tell the old ones like the one I am in (fourth generation) for the absence of elevators, usually six floors with roof gardens dotted with crawling vines, vegetable, and ornamental plant gardens, and birdcages for the poor canaries. More than a decade ago, it was housing for the site pioneers. When I first got to my place, trash was strewn and ignored all over the street level, or, at least left to the devices of the assigned street cleaner.

Our street cleaner has his tools in my basement, and that's where I quietly began my clean-and-tidy-up routine. The boldly marked phone numbers identifying proffered services on my steps and stair walls got the first wash, and the tacked ads on lampposts and walls got the scraper's touch. My trash picker I got the last time I was in Honolulu (meant as an elders' shelf bottle grabber) made the first round when no one was watching, but the word got around since I had to register with the police as a foreigner. My neighbors are now careful to put their trash on the designated street bins. I am working on the cigarette butts and discarded packs!

No one in Garapan would cares less about my housing. The aforementioned setting is context to the *tuhao* in my surroundings. The first ones are noticeably former government officials who took advantage of the subsidized housing when the satellite city was just getting started, retiring with the status symbol of a black sedan. A couple at my first floor landing keep their own parking space cones and are usually seen dusting their hood and swabbing their chromes as often as teens in a Chicago suburb waxed their Corvettes.

The second ones are young couples in the next third generation buildings. One family parks across my kitchen window, their deep grey Toyota SUV equipped with a double sunroof. Pre-school son, visibly the only child, sports a platinum electric mini-Mercedes Benz, which make me suspect that the parents work for the MB factory in Shenyang. (The Audi factory is in Changchun in the next province, which was also Nippon's car-manufacturing center when they occupied Manchuria.) His parents wipe their vehicle either early in the morning or late afternoon more often than I take a drag on my recently revived smoking habit.

(On my last trip to Saipan, I picked up Dunhill Reds for my Brit neighbor, and ended up keeping it. I suspect that with Shenyang being third to Beijing and Shanghai with PM10-2.5, asthma will get me before cancer puffs my lungs away. Ironic, since I did not succumb to the allure of abundant Mary Jane around Lake Susupe! No promo of tobacco here!)

Mother quipped often that Dad caressed his 60cc Honda first in the morning before he patted her butt. The motorbike was their pride and joy. China's private car has assumed the same, the symbol of liberation from public inconvenient conveyances. I am now at an age when even the dolled out porcelain beauties offer me their seats in the bus and the Metro. I go public. Not the *nouveau riche.* To car or not to car, is not at all a question!

The SUV across the street is covered with a reflective foil secured down to the tires so the vehicle does not absorb heat while parked, saving on the air-conditioner. Dust abounding is wiped while the outer sheen is waxed to shine, the hubcaps always immaculate. The couple, always spiffy in their boutique attires from head to toe, do this with religious intensity like ladies fingering their Angelus rosary beads beneath the spires at Gualo Rai!

Private wealth, long accumulated in China, gets displayed in cars. BMW has a new plant in Tiexi that rivals anything Bavaria can offer. To be sure, distributive justice remains a challenge as it is with the rest of the world, but for now, with the country's stress on domestic consumption, and the countryside population rapidly moving from the farms to the factories, the *tuhao* v-room reigns regal in the streets.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gi Halom Tanu` Katma

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Guaha `nai dididi` makat tana` katma yan trañkilu hinassota. Hombre hagun niyog malagu ha` dumeskansa lau mattu i mañglu` ya tinituhune ginapot. Todu kala`u.

Malago`yu lokue dumeskansa lau sige ha` i estotbun pilean para gobietnu de ha sufa` hinassoghu. Sumehayu` para bai husga haf` guaha.

Gi kuattru na pileha, guaha tumuñgu` haf` ha petsisige. Guaha chatplanu `nai ha sufa` huyuñg i kelat, kontodu chetnot hamalefa haf` tinateña; yan no siañkassu gi ha`anen publiku.

Hafa sumoyu` este siha na kabayerus umaligau i mas tatkilu` lau miproblema na siya? Guinifen adelantu gi linala` i tautau siha gi señgsoñg pat fuetsan politika ni liabianu ma-abusa?

Gi hilu` este, mafagcha`e chubasku siha kuestion siha tat kumu: Haf` unu bidamu ni magahet ha adelanta i ha`anen publiku? Sañgan dibuenamente hinassomu sin un` nakilulog i asuntu guatu gi fache` dinage. Integredat sumen presisu gi este na estrakada.

Gaige gi pachot lamayot patte gi publiku asuntun guaguan kandet, ma-utot pagamienton man-ritirau, guaguan apas insurance hinemlu` yan kumahulu` fektos siha gi tenda.

Mientras sige hulu` i gastu, i sueddu mama` simientu sa` gatdun gi mismu lugat pot mas ke dies años na tiempu. Yangin taya` antes bidamu pot adelanton linala` publiku, tat seguru na u guaha lamauleg na esperansa gi segundu chansa. I pañgpañg napu guiya ha` deste tiempon antigun.

Gi Halom Napu

Tat familia guine ti mamatmos gi halom lañgat `sino napun dañkulu na pagyon dibi. Dispues, ni un` bira kuantu sueddomu i resutta parehu. Taya adelantu ni ta hulog i lapes tula noche.

Hu pokate tatte todu man-gobietnu `sino tropan gobietnu para bai li`e haf` bidan niha pot para uma-adelanta kualidat linala` tautau-ta.

Gi midision unu esta`i dies, ti kalamten i haguha mas ke dos pot gadas. Gatdun gi dos sa` estague` na estau `nai man-adispide ginen gobietnu siha. Taya` adelantu ni taimanu biramu ni midision.

Dañkulu este na tradision gi publiku, un` dinage na esta lalagu` mantikaña. U fan magof mohon este na tropa `an ma-atan na taya makomple para uma-mueba mona linala` tautau niha?

Afañielos, atan i asuntu siha ni fumofondu ha`anen miyu pot in` repite hamyu mismu para in` luñu mas taduñg linala` miyu ti sisonyan miserapble.

Mafa` basula ha`anen publiku

Gi kada sakan `nai ha diskuida siha gi obligasion publiku, tres años tatte mafondu linala` kada familia guine. Tufuñg kabales sa` mas ke 30 años tatte `nai ha pega ha`anita. Dalai `ste!

Este na diskuidu kontodu futturon famaguon-ta diskalentau na estau ni ha pega. Haf disientemente siña ta ekspekta kumu na`magof na esperansa para i manatatte?

Naturatmiente mafattu este siha na kuestion pot diskuidu gi pueston publiku ni ma-usa pot banidan kotbatan Sears Roebuck lau gueku che`chu` niha pot i tautau ni marepresesenta.

Hafa mohon na taiguine este? Kau man-fatsu man-manaita gi materiat ni man-mapresenta? Mañgge hinasson sinsiyu na espirituat `nai debi umachoneg ayudu yan adelantu para i publiku hinerat? Buente mapega gi betsan san-tatte. Sumen na`mamahlau!

Man-ñahlalañg

Duru i tropan saken guaka magulusune fritada. Mientras tantu, duru lokue` man-afaisen haye gai patte i petna, brusuelu, ñañggu, kustiyas, teñgu yan patas. Ilegña un` asagua, "Este i sinake na katne todu mauleg. Alulaye chumule` patten miyu sa` ya mattu i polisia, todas!" Un` ratutu ha` maliñgu i tropa. Ni unu mamaisen fritada.

■■■

Ilegña un` tiahu ni pinalo`pu adet daibites na ha kakanu` inasnen tukun pot para u tagam i asukat gi haga`ña. Konfotmeyu` na guahau i lañga` yangin para bai` esplikaye i amku` ni ache na sineda`ña amot hambienteria.

■■■

Duru i amiguhu ha daflogue mantikan pechun guaka. Huna` hassu na ti mauleg para u padese dispues. Ha lapblayu` na guaha mediku yan hospitat.

`Nos kuantos mesis malofan hu soda` gi ICU pot hinichum todu gigat korasoña mantika. Hu faisen hafa ha tatañga kumanu`. Antes de u kuentos, hu sañgane na tiapmam-yu` tatte sa` para bai` na-maipe i katdun pechun guaka. Hihot matai `nai sige chumaleg ni putin pechoña. Managu` para bai madulalag ginen i kuattu.

■■■

Matachoñg i dos pitbetsu umamotsa mañge` katdun manog fresku. Guminen i tata i unu antes de u gulusune sentadaña. Finaisen ni gachoñgña hafa tinayuyotña. Ilegña na mangagau-gue` asi`i gi Saina. "Ya man-gagau hau asi`i ni sinaketa tres poya?" Kana` ha` gotgan i dos.

■■■

Kada dia sin pindehu kumonfisat. Hu sañgane na adahe dispues na u o`sun si pale` ya u trinimponasu huyuñg ginen i konfisionario. Dalai na gina` umisau! Ai na grasia.

'Nothing human is alien to me'

By MARIA FE ANDREA M. LAZARO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maria Fe Andrea M. Lazaro, a junior at Mount Carmel School, was named champion of the 30th Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition on Friday at the Tinian High School cafeteria. This is a complete text of her speech.

"Humani nil a me ali-enum puto."

In English, this Latin verse by the Roman poet Publius Terentius means: "Nothing human is alien to me."

It's worth repeating: Nothing human is alien to me.

With today's topic, it's easy to lose sight of that. Amidst all the numbers and statistics and legal jargon, we can easily forget that today's topic is fundamentally about people. It's not about aliens, it's not about immigrants, it's not even about that elusive term "indigenous"—it's about human beings. And if this verse from Terentius is to hold any meaning for any of us, we need to look past the legal definitions that divide us and embrace the humanity that unites us.

That is why I believe that the federal government should not extend the Commonwealth Worker permit program. Instead, the federal government should improve the immigration status of all CW workers as part of a broader immigration reform package that grants them interstate mobility. In short, we must give CW workers the same freedom that CNMI residents have had for over two decades: the freedom to choose whether to stay here or to seek opportunity elsewhere in the nation.

However, before I explain how and why the federal government should improve the status of CW workers, we must first address how and why the CW program has not worked here in the CNMI.

Gov. Eloy Inos, Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan, the CNMI Legislature, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce have all urged the U.S. Department of Labor to extend the CW program up to 2019. However, despite these calls for an extension, in many ways, the Commonwealth Worker program has done more harm than good to the CNMI.

First, it has caused more confusion for foreign workers and the businesses that employ them. Since the CW program was launched in 2009, the USCIS has fumbled in its implementation with unclear and sometimes contradictory procedures and decisions.

Second, the CW program has hurt our economy. Soon after the CW program was established, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security capped the number of permits to 10,000, just at a time when the growing tourism industry needed a larger workforce.

Third and last, revenues generated by the CW program have not effectively built the local labor force that was intended by the CNRA.

As the U.S. Government Accountability Office reported, despite transferring $1.8 million to the CNMI, the Department of Homeland Security "does not collect information on the use of funds [in] the CNMI."

So now, almost six whole years after the U.S. Congress passed the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, we still have a confusing CW program that has neither met the needs of the economy nor adequately trained a local workforce to replace CW workers.

By these measures, then, the CW program has failed. And extending it will only extend that failure for another five years.

But the problems of the CW program are not isolated to the CNMI. They are part of the larger immigration problem in the U.S.

The U.S. immigration system is so broken, that former mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, has said, "We will not remain a global superpower if we continue to close our doors to people who want to come here to work hard, start businesses, and pursue the American dream. The American dream cannot survive if we keep telling the dreamers to go elsewhere. It's what I call national suicide."

So, when the CNMI's immigration system was federalized in 2008, we inherited an immigration system that was just as bad, if not worse, than the local one that came before it. This is why we need to focus on broader immigration reform. Specifically, the federal government should pass U.S. Senate Bill 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. With a minor amendment, this bipartisan bill will provide a path to citizenship for all immigrants—including current CW permit holders. And doing so will help the CNMI and the entire U.S. in three ways.

First, it will help our economy.

According to a 2013 report by the Congressional Budget Office, Senate Bill 744 would do all of the following: increase the size of the labor force and employment; increase average wages in 2025 and later years; boost the amount of capital investment; and reduce the U.S. deficit by $197 billion over the next 10 years. The budget office thus concluded in very clear and simple terms: "Senate Bill 744 would boost economic output."

At the local level, the bill's provisions for improved work visas and paths to citizenship would provide more interstate mobility for current CW permit holders. Foreign workers will finally have the choice to stay here in the CNMI, thereby preventing the loss of a critical workforce.

However, should they choose to leave for the U.S. mainland, the costs and logistics of relocating to the U.S. would delay their departure. That delay would allow a transition to a local workforce that is more gradual than the artificial transition imposed by the CW program. That transition would be driven by the needs of the economy, not dictated by law. In other words, our local economy would evolve in a way that more effectively builds a local workforce.

But immigration reform will do more than just help our economy, which brings me to my second point: Passing Senate Bill 744 will help address the cultural anxieties of Chamorros and Carolinians. As a Filipino, I think it's important that we do not dismiss such cultural anxieties as racist or xenophobic. I personally understand the fears expressed by the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., which has argued that improved status will "alter and disrupt the social, political, and economic livelihood and aspirations of the indigenous peoples."

However, contrary to those fears, Senate Bill 744 will improve the livelihood and aspirations of indigenous and foreigners alike. As I mentioned earlier, the labor transition triggered by the bill would build the local workforce. Moreover, the exodus of some foreign workers seeking greener pastures in the U.S. mainland will "right-size" the demographic landscape of the CNMI, helping make Chamorros and Carolinians, once again, the majority of the population. Most importantly, though, foreign workers that give up greener pastures to stay here will join Chamorros and Carolinians in calling the CNMI home. And I say that a Filipino who gives up the bright lights, big city of the States for his humble home in As Lito has more in common with the Chamorro who has lived in Chalan Kanoa all his life than he does with his Pinoys back in the province, or the local who moved to Boise, Idaho, many years ago.

Being able to call the CNMI home brings me to my third and final point: Giving CW workers the freedom to choose to stay or to leave is the right and moral and ethical thing to do.

Many of these CW workers have lived and worked here with their families for 10, 15, 20, or more years. My own parents have given their blood, sweat, and tears here for 26 long years. In other parts of the country, five years of legal work is all they would have needed for permanent residency or a green card. But not here. Not now. Not them.

This is wrong.

They are more than just CW workers. They are more than just immigrants. They are more than just my parents. They are human beings. And they deserve to be treated as such.

"Humani nil a me ali-enum puto."

"Nothing human is alien to me."

We should all treat each other better, not as aliens, not as indigenous, but as human beings, who share the same hopes and aspirations for a better future for ourselves, for our families, and for our islands.

And as Martin Luther King Jr. once put it, "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

Or, as John F. Kennedy once said, "A rising tide will lift all boats."

Likewise, when we improve the status of foreign workers, we will also improve the status of our islands and our nation.

And that's something that we all want, need, and deserve.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

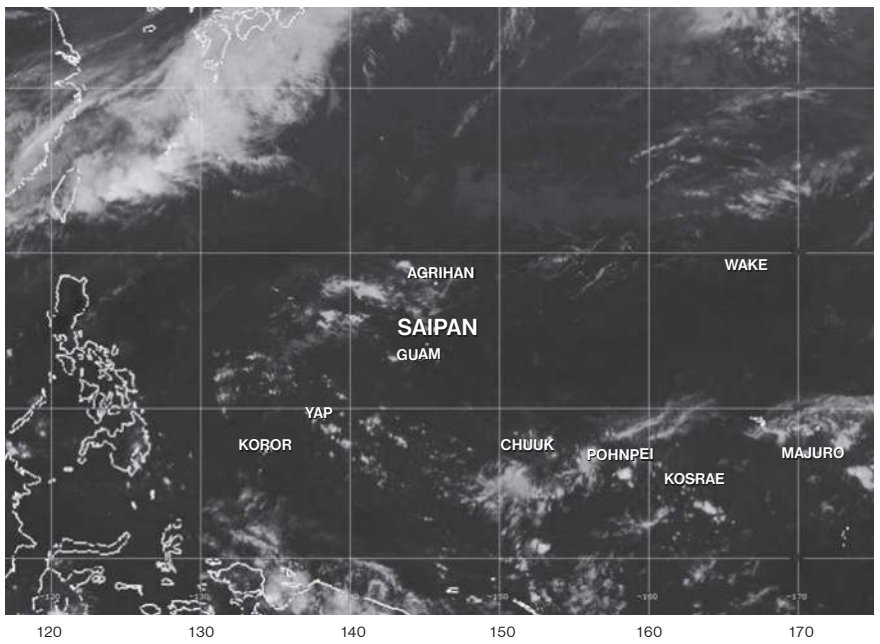
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲82	▼53
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲64	▼47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲91	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼78
Melbourne	Rain	▲64	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
New York	Showers	▲49	▼46
Osaka	Rain	▲65	▼61
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲62	▼56
Rome	Showers	▲66	▼51
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲64	▼49
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲69	▼60
Washington, DC	Rain	▲55	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line curves westward from 25N173E to just southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 21N155E to end at 23N147E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough runs northeastward from 10N133E to 19N142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring west of the Marianas within 160 miles of a line from 16N140E to 20N142E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 2N152E to 8N158E. A few thunderstorms are seen over Chuuk and Pohnpei states within 125 miles of a line from 4N150E to 6N158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Republic of the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 9N170E to 2N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
12:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:25 AM	
Wednesday	12:13 PM	12:18 AM
Thursday	1:01 PM	12:58 PM
Friday	1:49 PM	1:37 PM
Saturday	2:37 PM	2:16 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Workers beware!

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Our last column on Jan. 29, 2014, titled "CW Pitfalls: Traps for the Unwary," was a practical guide on how to avoid common mistakes in CW renewals. Today, we will address some bad practices with respect to CW applications and employment that we encounter more and more often in our practice. Some of these bad practices are due to mistakes, reliance on rumors, and ignorance of the law. Others are simply abusive employment practices aimed at exploiting gullible and powerless workers. A large number involve collusion between employer and worker to avoid the rules. In this kind of collusive setup both parties profit, at least in the short term: the employer maximizes profits from cheap labor, and the employee maintains status in the CNMI. In the end, however, most often the employee suffers the consequences.

Our CW clients include both employers and workers. Most employer clients come to us because they want to make sure they are complying with the law, or to get into compliance. This discussion is not about them. Most worker clients come to us because something has gone wrong: they are out of status, their CW has been denied, they have a request for evidence, or RFE, they have not answered or have difficulty answering, their motion to reconsider/reopen or appeal has been denied. Please remember that a petition for CW is the employer's application (the worker is the beneficiary). Therefore, any defects in the application would have been made by the employer; the employer must be the one to cure it. If the employer truly wants to retain the worker, the employer must take any steps that may be possible to cure the deficiency or challenge the ruling by USCIS.

As we said in our prior column, the first round of CW applications went pretty smoothly except for delays in approvals. The second round is not going as smoothly. We surmise that this has several causes. Among others:

■ USCIS is scrutinizing applications more closely. Review of the first round of applications appears to have been pretty liberal; employers were given the benefit of a doubt in close cases. Current review appears more focused, and less forgiving.

■ More employers are preparing applications in-house and not using professional assistance, thus more mistakes are made. Or worse, employers are using non-attorney fixers who are engaged in the unauthorized practice of immigration law, and typically don't know what they are doing. Talk about mistakes: we've seen some real doozies made by helpful "friends" who are paid to "fix my papers," to use the phrase workers use over and over again.

■ Employers too often fail to document that the employment remains current, and apply using outdated payroll information. At the very least, this leads to an RFE when USCIS demands the most recent pay stubs to prove that the employee's valid immigration status was maintained, and remained current at the time of the renewal application.

Whatever the reasons, we are seeing a real uptick in denials. The most common reasons are unlawful presence at the time of application and failure to prove continued employment for the prior CW employment period:

1. Unlawful presence at the time of renewal application. This can arise for many reasons. We will list the ones we see most often; but the list is by no means exhaustive:

■ Worker is out of status at the time of application. If the worker is out of status at the time of application, the application will be denied. If the worker has been out of status for less than 180 days, the employer can petition the worker for CW status, but the worker needs to exit the CNMI and then go through consular processing to obtain a CW visa. If the worker has been out of status for more than 180 days but for less than one year, he will be barred from returning to the U.S. (including the CNMI) for three years; if the worker has been out of status for more than a year, he cannot return to the U.S. for 10 years.

■ Filing for renewal after prior CW status has expired. A renewal must be filed prior to the expiration of the previous status. We advise filing at least 60 days before expiration. That will give time to respond to any deficiencies that might arise. It also allows for continued employment since a CW worker must stop work if there is a gap between the expiration of the prior CW and the approval of the renewal. If the petition for CW renewal is filed after the prior status is expired, the worker must exit the CNMI and wait for the home country U.S. consulate to process the application and obtain a visa.

■ Filing more than 30 days after involuntary termination of worker. If a worker is involuntarily terminated, a new employer may file a new CW application to employ him within 30 days of the termination. If the new employer fails to file a CW petition within 30 days, the worker must depart the CNMI. The new employer can still file the application, but the worker must depart and go through consular processing. Remember that "filed" means "received by USCIS," not merely deposited in the mail.

■ Filing first and advertising later. This is a common mistake by the employer that has severe consequences to the worker. We discussed it in our last column, but it bears repeating. An essential part of the CW application is the employer's attestation that there are no U.S. qualified workers available for the position. This requirement is generally fulfilled by advertising the position (JVA). Filing first and advertising later guarantees denial because the employer's attestation that there are no qualified workers available is a conclusion that can only be made after the responses to the JVA have been received and evaluated. There is no way to cure this defect in an application. The only way for the employer to retain or hire the worker who is the beneficiary of such an application is to file a whole new petition. By this time, 30 days have surely passed and the worker must exit and consular process his visa in the home country.

■ Employer is a shadow or illegitimate business: There are still many so called businesses in the CNMI that are simply fronts to give workers status. These are always collusive situations between employer and worker. In one scenario, there is either no business at all or just a very marginal front. Workers are not paid at all. Rather, they pay the shadow employer for processing their application and then pay him a scheduled fee for their status. They then work in the grey economy for low wages. Often they will pay to the employer the equivalent of taxes for minimum wage earnings. The shadow employer then either pockets the "taxes" or files a fraudulent return. In another scenario, there is a legitimate business but the income generated is not sufficient to pay the workers even minimum wage. By agreement between the employer and worker, the workers are paid a small stipend plus commissions. This is especially true in the personal service industries, such as massage and beauty. We have yet to meet a masseuse or a beautician who is paid a minimum wage. All employees work on commission plus a small monthly "allowance." Often these wages are paid in cash and, in any event, rarely reach the minimum wage income level. All of these employment practices will end in a denial because the employer is unable to produce satisfactory and recent employment records, such as pay stubs, W-2 forms and so forth.

2. Failure to provide employment record for the prior employment period. This issue is really just a form of determining continued lawful presence. Whether a CW application is a renewal for ongoing employment or a petition by a new employer, the petition must show that the proposed beneficiary of the application was lawfully present in the CNMI at the time the application is made. If the beneficiary's prior status was CW, whether with the petitioning employer or a prior one, USCIS must be satisfied that the beneficiary actually worked during the prior period. There are many reasons for not being able to meet this requirement.

■ Prior employer stopped paying worker long before new application, no recent wage records exist.

■ Prior employer went out of business but did not notify USCIS.

■ Employees paid in cash; no sufficient records.

■ Prior employer kept insufficient payroll records for purpose of evading taxes.

■ Prior employer did not pay minimum wage but rather allowances and/or commissions.

■ Employer engages in "creative" bookkeeping. Businesses frequently seek to minimize their tax obligations by understating their income, gambling that they will not be subject to an audit by Rev&Tax. Even when they succeed, there are other potential consequences. An employer who files a CW application must prove that the company is a real business; this means submitting tax records as well as other proof of a valid business. All too often we see tax records showing business incomes that logically cannot support the business or its employees. We have seen denials that begin with a summary that goes something like, "Your corporation operates a gift shop with 20 employees and an annual gross income of $40,000, and you seek to employ Ms. X as a sales associate for minimum wage." Although we haven't seen a denial that states this as the direct reason, there is a clear subtext from USCIS of "Huh? Who do you think you're kidding?"—coupled with a real close look at the employee's payroll records and dates as a basis for saying "no."

We titled this column "Workers beware!" for a reason. All of the bad and often fraudulent practices described above will harm the worker more than the employer. The most the employee will get out of these questionable arrangements is short-term status followed by the inability to renew, find other employment and remain in the CNMI. To unscrupulous employers, foreign workers are "fungible," which means that each worker is like any other and in their view, all can be exploited. To our foreign worker readers we say: Please get reliable information. USCIS has been very patient and cooperative in giving out information. Do not listen to rumors. Do not let desperation to remain in the CNMI lead you into fraudulent, collusive arrangements with employers. You will be the one to pay the price.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

BUY

From Page 10

requires that we move forward together with resolve and focus in a steady pace and direction. Sound bites through the spoken words no longer works, but words taken to the next level through bold steps and action make the visible difference and impact in advancing the agriculture sector as a viable local industry.

For our local farming industry to thrive and the local agricultural sector to remain a viable economic engine in the local economy requires steady and unwavering commitment to and support of local farmers through our ability and willingness to engage in "buy fresh, buy local" consumer culture, coupled by the community embracing this healthy dietary effort in buying and consuming fresh local produce, vegetables, fruits, value-agricultural products, local eggs, local beef and pork, locally grown tilapia and shrimp, local drinking water, local bread, local pastry, and local catch of the day.

In other words, we all need to march forward together to the beat of buying and eating fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and locally packaged agricultural value-added products and fresh marine catch. Our own local actions taken together will elevate the industry far and beyond subsistence farming, fishing, diary, and value-added products to production farming through small, family-operated, diversified farms, fishing, diary, and value-added products. This local production for local consumption model brings the CNMI closer to directly addressing our food security issue while nurturing a sustainable food production system at the same time.

To be continued

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A lose-lose situation

The people of Saipan are—to paraphrase Abe Lincoln—engaged in a small civil war: that whether a group of lawmakers can railroad a bill through the House and Senate, in violation of the Open Government Act, and in secret, against the wishes of its people, in order to bring a casino to Saipan. The lawmakers' behavior was not only shameless but reckless.

It was reckless because there is likely to be a new anti-casino referendum on the ballot next November, and, by then, one of the investors may have already paid a whopping $30 million for the chance to build the casino.

If the referendum passes (as it has in the past) the investor will be caught short. The $30 million will have been spent, and the unfortunate investor will have to stand in a long line of creditors the CNMI government owes, behind CUC and the others. Our government owes millions, and to many. This is deplorable.

What is also deplorable is that it is highly unlikely that the governor, the legislators, or the Lottery Commission ever mentioned the referendum to the investor: that his company could easily lose $30 million.

Still, I hope the referendum becomes reality.

The casino was always an ill-considered idea. Its lousiness was magnified by the way the bill was rushed through, signed after hours, and was a done deal without one word of public input. This act was a slap in the face to each of us. It ought not to have been done that way. It ought not to have been done at all.

The elected officials on Capital Hill do not care about their solemn oaths, or the people here, and, sadly, we are stuck with them.

But we are not yet stuck with the casino.

In 1979 the voters organized, signed the petitions and the referendum worked: the casino bill was quashed. There is precedent for such an action, and now we must do it again.

If the petition for the referendum comes your way, sign it. Your signature will do three important things. First, it will tell the government that we do not approve of their conduct. Second, it will tell the government that we do not want a casino on Saipan. Third, it will affirm the power of the people of the commonwealth.

If you want to "take your island back" you have to stand up and write your name on the petition. Be sure you are a registered voter. If you can do that, maybe we can stop this nonsense.

Russ Mason
Akgak, Saipan

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Personnel from U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services display a fire truck to promote education and fire safety during career day at Pedro C. Lujan Elementary School in Barrigada on April 30.

Guam firefighters share career experiences with students

BARRIGADA, Guam—Firefighters and fire inspectors from U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services met with students from Pedro C. Lujan Elementary School in Barrigada to discuss fire safety and share their experiences during the school's career day on April 30.

"It's just great to come out here and represent the fire department with the Navy and educate the kids on what fire is all about, that it's dangerous," said Fire Inspector Anthony Lizama. "If we start them out early, teaching them, educating them about fire then they'll be safer as they get older."

Lizama and his fellow firefighters gave the children important tips on fire prevention and allowed them the opportunity to see a fire truck up close and interact with NBG's Fire and Emergency Services mascot Sparky.

"The take-away from this is we hope they'll educate themselves more [about fire prevention] and become firefighters," he said. "It's always good to get out into the community to interact to show the camaraderie between the local and federal side."

Career day coordinator Vera Elliott thanked firefighters for meeting with students and explaining what they do to help keep Navy installations and the public safe.

"They have been part of our school's career day for the past four years and they've been a wonderful agency, always willing to participate and help out our kids," she said.

Elliott added that career day is a meaningful program as it shows different types of opportunities available and can spark interest in students as young as kindergartners. ***(PR)***

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Fire Inspectors Anthony Lizama, left, and Michael Borja, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services, discuss fire prevention with students during career day at Pedro C. Lujan Elementary School in Barrigada on April 30.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Fire Inspector Anthony Lizama, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services, talks to students about fire prevention with the help of the department's mascot Sparky during career day at Pedro C. Lujan Elementary School in Barrigada on April 30.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Firefighter George Hernandez, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services, explains the capabilities and features of a Navy fire truck to students during career day at Pedro C. Lujan Elementary School in Barrigada on April 30.

Business

Decoding the Apple-Samsung patent dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Apple and Samsung are suing each other in courts and trade offices around the world, each making claims that the other copied patented mobile device features.

The companies' most-recent legal tussle all but concluded on Friday, when a California jury found that Samsung copied some of Apple's smartphone features. The panel also concluded that Apple illegally used one of Samsung's patents in creating the iPhone 4 and 5.

All told, the jury awarded Samsung $158,400 and Apple $119 million, far less than the $2.2 billion the company sought.

Jurors were ordered to return to court Monday to continue deliberations on a minor matter that could result in a higher award for Apple.

Before determining whether the companies copied phone technologies, jurors had to consider several patents. Here's a look at select patents and the jury's conclusions:

Patent 5,946,647

■ Official description: System and method for performing an action on a structure in computer-generated data.

■ What it really means: In a mobile device, the technology described in this patent is used to display a pop-up menu of options. One example: When you highlight a phone number on the touchscreen and the software gives you a prompt of options.

■ The jury's verdict: The jury found that Apple proved Samsung infringed on the patent across several mobile devices, including the Galaxy Nexus, Galaxy S III and Stratosphere.

AP

In this Jan. 17, 2014 file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook, right, and China Mobile's chairman Xi Guohua are silhouetted against a screen showing iPhone products as they applaud during a promotional event that marks the opening day of sales of China Mobile's 4G iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c in Beijing, China.

Patent 6,847,959

■ Official description: Universal interface for retrieval of information in a computer system.

■ What it really means: This patent covers a process that's similar to the function of a search engine. It enables the mobile device to access information from a variety of locations, while only listing relevant data for the user.

One of the features in the patent is a graphic interface showing a "Go-To" menu option in a text input window.

■ The jury's verdict: Apple failed to prove Samsung infringed on this patent.

Patent 7,761,414

■ Official description: Asynchronous data synchronization among devices.

■ What it really means: This patent involves a way to synchronize data across computers and mobile devices. In the case of a smartphone, this could apply to synchronizing address books on your phone with online storage.

■ The jury's verdict: Samsung did not infringe on Apple's patent.

Patent 8,046,721

■ Official description: Unlocking a device by performing gestures on an unlock image.

What it really means: This patent refers to a way of controlling an electronic device with a touch-sensitive display. Specifically, Apple claimed Samsung infringed on a feature of the patent that describes the swipe-and-unlock feature on iPhones.

■ The jury's verdict: Apple made its case that certain Samsung devices, including the Admire, Stratosphere and Galaxy Nexus violated patents. But the panel rejected claims pertaining to Samsung's Galaxy S II, Galaxy S II Epic 4G Touch and Galaxy S II Skyrocket.

Patent 5,579,239

■ Official description: Remote video transmission system.

■ What it really means: Samsung's patent describes a system for digitizing, compressing and transmitting audio and visual signals and then reversing the process for broadcast.

The jury's verdict: Apple did not infringe on a section of Samsung's patent that covers transmitting video in real time over a cellular frequency.

Powerade drops controversial ingredient

NEW YORK (AP)—Coca-Cola is dropping a controversial ingredient from its Powerade sports drink, after a similar move by PepsiCo's Gatorade last year.

The ingredient, brominated vegetable oil, had been the target of a petition by a Mississippi teenager, who questioned why it was being used in a drink marketed toward health-conscious athletes. The petition on Change.org noted that the ingredient is linked to a flame retardant and is not approved for use in Japan or the European Union.

In response to customer feedback, PepsiCo said last year it would drop the ingredient from Gatorade. At the time, Coca-Cola declined to say whether it would remove the ingredient from the two flavors of Powerade that contain it as well.

But this week, bottles of Powerade in fruit punch and strawberry lemonade flavors being sold in the Detroit, Michigan; Omaha, Nebraska, New York and Washington, D.C. areas no longer list the ingredient. Some bottles still list it, however, suggesting Coca-Cola Co. may have started phasing it out recently.

Mideast airline Etihad offers bed and bath suites

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Talk about some serious legroom.

Etihad Airways, a fast-growing Mideast carrier, laid out plans Sunday to offer passengers who find first-class seats a bit too tight a miniature suite featuring a closed-off bedroom, private bathroom and a dedicated butler.

It is the latest salvo in the worldwide battle among airlines for well-heeled customers. Their willingness to spend big on premium seats can make a big difference to an airline's bottom line.

The Abu Dhabi-based carrier revealed the front-of-plane amenities as part of a broader rollout of plush new cabin offerings for dozens of long-range jetliners it plans to receive over the coming years.

Etihad Chief Executive James Hogan conceded that offering what the airline says is the first-of-its-kind multi-room suite helps generate buzz, but that ultimately it is a serious effort to bring in more cash. The carrier already woos the flying elite with perks including first-class onboard chefs and in-flight nannies.

"Obviously there's going to be a halo effect in the positioning of Etihad Air as a premium carrier," he said. "But we wouldn't do it unless we felt we could make money with it. ... This is a top-end market. There is demand here."

Etihad is the smallest of three rapidly expanding, government-backed Gulf carriers redrawing global aviation maps by funneling travelers through their desert hubs.

Its base in the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi, this year became the first in the Mideast to open a U.S. preclearance facility staffed by American customs and border officials. U.S. pilots and members of Congress have criticized the facility, which is largely funded by the UAE, alleging it puts American carriers at a disadvantage.

Since starting operations in 2003, Etihad has built a fleet of 96 planes. It carried 11.5 million passengers and posted a profit of $62 million last year.

It has ordered more than 220 additional planes, including 10 Airbus A380s and 71 Boeing 787s being outfitted with new interiors introduced Sunday.

Your Office Coach: Treat shared-desk policy as necessary evil

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

QUESTION: My problem is that people keep messing with my desk. When employees from outlying areas visit our office, they are told to use any empty cubicle. One day when I was out, someone used up all the tissues from my Kleenex box and completely filled the wastebasket with them. Another time, one of the visitors apparently took my favorite pen.

I also find that people frequently change the settings on my computer. For example, they will mute the sound, create a new default font, or send documents to a different printer. I placed a polite note on my monitor asking visitors to please restore the settings, but that had no effect.

I have no idea who these employees are, so I can't talk with them directly. Although I don't want to seem petty, I think their behavior is very rude. What should I do about this?

ANSWER: Almost everyone feels territorial about their office habitat, so I completely understand your reaction. Given your company's shared-desk policy, however, I'm afraid you may need to adjust your thinking a bit. Where you see "my desk" and "my computer," management just sees available space and equipment.

While you may not be able to banish the intruders, you can still attempt to modify their behavior. To clearly indicate that this cubicle is occupied, put some photos or other personal touches in obvious places. When you plan to be away, stash all items which you wish to protect in a drawer. If your desk has a lock, use it.

Retain the reminder about your computer settings, but make it more specific. Since most people won't remember what they changed, provide a detailed list of your preferences. Some visitors may ignore this request, but the considerate ones will comply.

Ultimately, though, the most helpful strategy is to make the mental shift from irritation to acceptance. Try to view these interlopers as a necessary evil and expect to undo their damage from time to time. There's no point getting stressed out over something you can't change.

Q: I was recently asked to share a cubicle with one of my coworkers. Since moving in with "Ashley," I have noticed that she frequently plays games on her computer, sometimes for up to two hours.

When I mentioned this to the owner, he shrugged it off and said she won't be playing games for long because her busy season is coming up. This is seriously affecting my morale, so I would like to diplomatically talk to Ashley about it. How should I approach her?

A: Unless Ashley's gaming habit is affecting your work, this is really not your problem. The reality is that you are not her boss, so it is not your place to correct her performance. You have done all you can do by talking with the owner, who apparently doesn't care.

Hopefully, the "busy season" will soon put an end to Ashley's goofing off. But in the meantime, reduce your own frustration by ignoring her activities and focusing on your tasks.

Nation

Acrobats fall during Ringling Bros. circus stunt

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A support frame collapsed during an aerial hair-hanging stunt at a circus performance Sunday, sending eight acrobats plummeting to the ground. Nine performers were seriously injured in the fall, including a dancer below, while an unknown number of others suffered less serious injuries.

The accident was reported about 45 minutes into the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus' 11 a.m. Legends show at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence.

Stephen Payne, a spokesman for Feld Entertainment, the parent company of Ringling Bros., said the accident happened during an act in which eight performers hang "like a human chandelier" using their hair.

He said the metal-frame apparatus from which the performers were hanging came free from the metal truss it was connected to. The eight women fell 25 to 40 feet, landing on a dancer below.

All the performers have been doing "some variation of this act for some time," Payne said, though he didn't know how long. The current incarnation of the act began in January with the launch of the show, he said.

AP

In this photo provided by Rose Viveiros, first responders work at the center ring after a platform collapsed during an aerial hair-hanging stunt at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, Sunday, May 4, 2014, in Providence, R.I.

Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare said officials and inspectors haven't yet determined what caused the accident. He said none of the injuries appears to be life-threatening.

Roman Garcia, general manager of the Legends show, asked people to pray for the performers.

"Everybody's doing fine, everybody's at the hospital, everybody's conscious, everybody's doing pretty well," he said at the Dunkin' Donuts Center less than two hours after the accident.

Rhode Island Hospital in Providence admitted 11 patients with varying injuries, including one in critical condition, spokeswoman Jill Reuter said.

The hair-hanging stunt is described on the circus' website as a "larger-than-life act" featuring eight female performers.

"These `hairialists' perform a combination of choreography and cut-ups including spinning, hanging from hoops, and rolling down wrapped silks, all while being suspended 35 feet in the air by their hair alone," the website says. "In this hair-raising act, audiences will even see the weight of three girls held aloft by the locks of only one of these tangled beauties."

Video taken by audience members shows a curtain dropping to reveal several performers hanging from an apparatus suspended from above. Seconds later, as they begin to perform, the women fall, and the metal apparatus lands on them.

"It just went crashing down," said audience member Sydney Bragg, 14, of North Kingstown. "Everyone was freaking out. We heard this huge clatter and then we just heard the girls scream."

She said spotlights were on the performers at the time, but all the lights went out after the fall.

Rosa Viveiros of Seekonk, Massachusetts, said she saw that the acrobats had fallen on top of at least one other performer below, a man who stood up with his face bloodied. The acrobats remained still and did not get up, she said.

"We thought it was part of the circus," said her husband, Joe.

The couple attended the circus with their 6-year-old grandson and 9-year-old niece.

"Everyone was in shock," Rosa Viveiros said. "It was pretty overwhelming to see that."

The circus began performances in Providence on Friday. The Dunkin' Donuts Center canceled two shows scheduled for later Sunday.

A Ringling Bros. aerial performer was killed in 2004 in St. Paul, Minnesota, when she was twirling 30 feet in the air on long chiffon scarves and the material gave way.

Families of missing in Ohio wait for their miracle

CLEVELAND (AP)—The house fortified with boarded-up windows and makeshift alarms where Ariel Castro held three women captive for nearly a decade is gone now.

So are the missing-persons posters that were taped to light poles and restaurant windows throughout a neighborhood haunted by the disappearances of so many girls over the years.

What hasn't changed since the stunning discovery of those three women is that others are still missing from those same streets.

For those families given a glimmer of hope by the women's escape, the past year has been filled with new leads, fruitless searches and, for one, a heartbreaking end.

"I can't say we're jealous, but we're disappointed we don't have that resolution," said Greg Washington, a close friend of a woman who disappeared in 2007. "We just want resolution. Either have her back or know what happened."

Optimism soared during the chaotic hours after Amanda Berry broke through a screen door to freedom last May. Upstairs, officers found Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight. They had been snatched off the streets separately from 2002 to 2004 and locked inside Castro's house, investigators later said

Two miles away, Albert Kleckner stared at his television in disbelief. "I was hoping my daughter would come out next," he said.

A few families showed up at the hospital where the three women were being evaluated. Too overwhelmed to drive, a neighbor took Tonia Adkins to see if her big sister, Christina, who disappeared in 1995, had been found.

"There was such high hope, and all of a sudden, it was taken away again," Adkins said.

Finding the three kidnapped women generated new tips about 18-year-old Christina Adkins and a 14-year-old girl who disappeared years ago in the same area. Investigators also looked into whether Castro was tied to other disappearances but found nothing.

Families of the missing held rallies during the summer and joined police officers to pass out fliers, hoping for their own miracle. "It has brought a sense of unity and urgency," said Angel Arroyo, a pastor who has worked with families in Cleveland.

Arroyo and Gina DeJesus' father went to door-to-door last summer after a young woman disappeared in a neighboring city. Felix DeJesus also joined relatives of another missing woman at rally in June to make sure she wasn't forgotten either.

"People deep down didn't believe, but he didn't give up hope," said Manuel Walker, whose mother, Gloria Walker, was last seen on the city's east side seven years ago. "For him to find his daughter, it gives you hope, more than you already had."

The list of missing people in Cleveland, a city of just under 400,000, makes up about one out of every 10 unresolved cases in the entire state. Cleveland police records show nearly 2,800 missing persons cases last year alone.

1st openly gay Episcopal bishop to divorce husband

NEW YORK (AP)—The first openly gay Episcopal bishop, who became a symbol for gay rights far beyond the church while deeply dividing the world's Anglicans, plans to divorce his husband.

Bishop Gene Robinson announced the end of his marriage to Mark Andrew in an email sent to the Diocese of New Hampshire, where he served for nine years before retiring in 2012.

Robinson would not disclose details about the end of their 25-year relationship but wrote Sunday in The Daily Beast he owed a debt to Andrew "for standing by me through the challenges of the last decade."

"It is at least a small comfort to me, as a gay rights and marriage equality advocate, to know that like any marriage, gay and lesbian couples are subject to the same complications and hardships that afflict marriages between heterosexual couples," Robinson wrote. "All of us sincerely intend, when we take our wedding vows, to live up to the ideal of 'til death do us part. But not all of us are able to see this through until death indeed parts us."

Robinson declined to comment further Sunday to The Associated Press.

Robinson has never been fully accepted within the more than 70 million-member Anglican Communion, which is rooted in the Church of England and represented in the United States by the Episcopal Church.

The bishop endured death threats during his 2003 consecration and intense scrutiny of his personal life, and in 2006, he sought treatment for alcoholism. His election prompted some Episcopal dioceses and parishes to break away and establish the Anglican Church in North America with other theological conservatives overseas. Robinson was barred in 2008 by then-Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams from the Lambeth Conference, the once-a-decade global meeting of all Anglican bishops, as Williams struggled to find a way to keep Anglicans united.

ACROSS THE NATION

Biplane crashes at Northern California air show

FAIRFIELD, Calif. (AP)—A 77-year-old pilot was killed when his vintage biplane crashed on a runway Sunday while he was performing an upside down stunt at a Northern California air show. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that the plane caught fire and a plume of black smoke poured from the craft in an open field away from spectators at 2:05 p.m. at Travis Air Force Base in Solano County. An estimated 100,000 spectators witnessed the fatal crash. No one else was injured. An Air Force statement identified Edward Andreini of Half Moon Bay as the killed pilot; Federal Aviation Administration records show him to be the registered owner of the 1944 Stearman biplane. The World War II-era aircraft was commonly used to train pilots.

Coroner: Propane heater fumes killed 5 in cabin

ELIMSPORT, Pa. (AP)—The deaths of two adults and three children in a small cabin in north-central Pennsylvania were caused by carbon monoxide poisoning caused by an improperly ventilated propane heater, a coroner said Sunday. State police continued interviewing people about the tragedy, which followed a Friday night party that investigators said was attended by five or six adult friends. The man who hosted the party, identified only as a relative of the cabin's owner, discovered the bodies Saturday. He had slept in his truck outside the cabin, police said. The adult victims were identified as Jacqueline R. Stackhouse, 23, of New Columbia, and Nathan L. Reece, 30, of Muncy. The child victims were Stackhouse's 3-year-old son and two girls, ages 9 and 4. The relationships among the victims remained unclear Sunday.

Studies find 'young' blood rejuvenates aging mice

NEW YORK (AP)—If Mickey Mouse is feeling his age at 86, scientists may have found just the tonic: the blood of younger mice. Older mice got stronger, exercised longer and performed better mentally after they were injected with blood from young mice, or even just with a substance that's more abundant in younger blood. Someday, if more research goes well, this may lead to a way to treat some infirmities of old age in people. In the meantime, scientists have a warning for do-it-yourselfers. "Don't try this at home," said Saul Villeda of the University of California, San Francisco, an author of one of three papers published online Sunday by the journals Nature Medicine and Science.

Asia

South Korea ferry was routinely overloaded

INCHEON, South Korea (AP)—The doomed ferry Sewol exceeded its cargo limit on 246 trips—nearly every voyage it made in which it reported cargo—in the 13 months before it sank, according to documents that reveal the regulatory failures that allowed passengers by the hundreds to set off on an unsafe vessel. And it may have been more overloaded than ever on its final journey.

One private, industry-connected entity recorded the weights. Another set the weight limit. Neither appears to have had any idea what the other was doing. And they are but two parts of a maritime system that failed passengers April 16 when the ferry sank, leaving more than 300 people missing or dead.

The disaster has exposed enormous safety gaps in South Korea's monitoring of domestic passenger ships, which is in some ways less rigorous than its rules for ships that handle only cargo. Collectively, the country's regulators held more than enough information to conclude that the Sewol was routinely overloaded, but because they did not share that data and were not required to do so, it was practically useless.

AP

Crewmembers of the sunken ferry Sewol prepare to leave a court which issued their arrest warrant, in Mokpo, South Korea, Saturday, April 26, 2014.

The Korean Register of Shipping examined the Sewol early last year as it was being redesigned to handle more passengers. The register slashed the ship's cargo capacity by more than half, to 987 tons, and said the vessel needed to carry more than 2,000 tons of water to stay balanced.

But the register gave its report only to the ship owner, Chonghaejin Marine Co. Ltd. Neither the coast guard nor the Korean Shipping Association, which regulates and oversees departures and arrivals of domestic passenger ships, appear to have had any knowledge of the new limit before the disaster.

"That's a blind spot in the law," said Lee Kyu-Yeul, professor emeritus at Seoul National University's Department of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering.

Chonghaejin reported much greater cargo capacity to the shipping association: 3,963 tons, according to a coast guard official in Incheon who had access to the documentation but declined to release it.

Since the redesigned ferry began operating in March 2013, it made nearly 200 round trips—394 individual voyages—from Incheon port near Seoul to the southern island of Jeju. On 246 of those voyages, the Sewol exceeded the 987-ton limit, according to documents from Incheon port.

The limit may have been exceeded even more frequently than that. In all but one of the other 148 trips, zero cargo was recorded. It is not mandatory for passenger ferries to report cargo to the port operator, which gathers the information to compile statistics and not for safety purposes.

More than 2,000 tons of cargo was reported on 136 of the Sewol's trips, and it topped 3,000 tons 12 times. But the records indicate it never carried as much as it did on its final disastrous voyage: Moon Ki-han, a vice president at Union Transport Co, the company that loaded the ship, has said it was carrying an estimated 3,608 tons of cargo.

The port operator has no record of the cargo from the Sewol's last voyage. Ferry operators submit that information only after trips are completed. In that respect, the rules for domestic passenger ships are looser than those for cargo-only vessels, which must report cargo before they depart.

Details from the port documents were first reported by the South Korean newspaper Kukmin Daily.

Focus now on Afghan families displaced by slide

ABI BARIK, Afghanistan (AP)—As Afghans observed a day of mourning Sunday for the hundreds of people killed in a horrific landslide, authorities tried to help the 700 families displaced by the torrent of mud that swept through their village.

The families left their homes due to the threat of more landslides in the village of Abi Barik in Badakhshan province, Minister for Rural Rehabilitation Wais Ahmad Barmak said.

Another reason for the evacuation was the threat of flooding caused in part by the landslide itself, said Mohammad Daim Kakar, from the Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority. He said the shifting earth had made it difficult for water to drain through the valley—a serious concern as rain continued to fall Sunday.

Engineers are working on a plan to divert the water, he said.

Aid groups and the government have rushed to the remote area in northeastern Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan and China with food, shelter and water. But for those affected, help was slow to arrive.

"My family, my wife and eight children are alive, but have nothing to use as shelter. We have nothing to eat," said Barat Bay, a 50-year-old farmer and father of eight. "We have passed the last two nights with our children at the top of this hill with no tent, no blanket."

Kakar, who visited the area Sunday, acknowledged that aid had yet to reach some people but said their efforts were complicated by villagers from areas unaffected by the landslide also coming to claim the aid.

A spokesman for the International Organization of Migration, Matt Graydon, said the group is bringing solar-powered lanterns, blankets and shelter kits. He said after a visit to the area Sunday that some residents have gone to nearby villages to stay with family or friends while others have slept out in the open.

"Some people left with almost nothing," Graydon said.

Authorities visiting from Kabul gave $800,000 to the provincial governor during visits on Saturday and Sunday to use in the aid effort, said Kakar and Barmak, who promised that the government would pay more if needed.

President Hamid Karzai designated Sunday as a day of mourning for the hundreds of people who died. Authorities still don't have an exact figure on how many people died in the landslide, Barmak said, and estimates have ranged from 250 to 2,700.

The government has identified 250 people who died and estimated that 300 houses were buried under tons of mud, Barmak said.

It will be impossible to dig up all the bodies, but many people continue to look on their own, said Abdullah Homayun Dehqan, the head of Badakhshan province's National Disaster Department. He said officials met with community elders Sunday in Faizabad, the provincial capital, to see whether they wanted the government to continue digging, but said no final decision has been made.

U.S. President Barack Obama called Karzai on Sunday to offer his condolences and additional assistance for the relief efforts. A White House statement about the call did not elaborate.

Police kill 3 suspected rebels in northeast India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Police said Sunday they killed three suspected rebels and arrested eight forest guards for alleged involvement in the killings of 31 Muslims in the worst ethnic violence in India's remote northeast in two years.

In dense forest near Tejpur, four suspected insurgents hurled a grenade and fired at policemen who ambushed them, said police officer Sanjukta Prashar. Police killed two in an exchange of gunfire and two suspects escaped, she said. The town is nearly 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the region where Muslims were attacked on Thursday and Friday.

In Udalguri district, police killed a third suspect in an exchange of gunfire and recovered one revolver and one hand grenade from him, said regional police inspector general L.R. Bishnoi. He said police suspect two who fled were on their way to attack a village with a mostly Muslim population.

Police also recovered two bodies floating in a river in Barapeta area, Bishnoi said, raising the death toll in last week's violence to 31.

Police said they have arrested eight forest guards following complaints by the victims' relatives that they were involved in the brutal killings. The 22 people arrested earlier face charges they either burned homes or provided shelter to insurgents.

On Sunday, army soldiers patrolled the curfew-bound districts of Baska and Kokrajhar for a second day to defuse tension.

Relatives, who earlier refused to bury 18 victims in Baska unless Assam state's top elected official visited them, relented and performed the last rites after state Planning Minister Prithvi Majhi met them and assured security to thousands of people hit by the ethnic violence. The wrapped bodies had remained on the road for two days.

Authorities have said the attackers belonged to a faction of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, which has been fighting for a separate homeland for the ethnic Bodo people for decades. The rebel group denies it.

The Bodos are an indigenous tribe in Assam state, making up 10 percent of the state's 33 million people.

Rights group Amnesty International India said in a statement that authorities in Assam state must take action to protect the rights of all communities and bring those responsible for the attacks to justice.

Dozens of rebel groups are active in seven states in northeast India. Violence between Bodo people and Muslims in 2012 killed as many as 100 people in the same area as the recent attacks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bridge collapses in south China, killing 11

BEIJING (AP)—A stone arch bridge under illegal construction in a village in southern China collapsed, killing 11 people and injuring several others, state media and an official said Sunday. Rescuers pulled out 26 people, mostly construction workers, after the bridge came down Saturday afternoon in Liangkengkou village in Guangdong province, according to an official at the information office of Maoming city government. Five of them were confirmed dead at the scene. Eight others were seriously injured, six of whom died later in the hospital, said the man, who refused to give his name, as is common with Chinese officials. One person managed to escape the bridge collapse, he said.

Passenger train derails in India; at least 19 dead

NEW DELHI (AP)—A passenger train derailed in western India on Sunday, killing at least 19 people and injuring more than 100, police said. The engine and four of the 20 coaches jumped the tracks near Roha station, 110 kilometers (70 miles) south of Mumbai, said police officer Ankush Shinde. The rescuers used gas cutters to open the derailed coaches to reach those trapped inside. Big cranes were deployed to remove these coaches from the rail track, Shinde said. Two of the derailed coaches tilted on one side and one overturned, said railway spokesman Anil Kumar Saxena.

Strong earthquake jolts Tokyo region; few injuries

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake jolted Tokyo early Monday, rattling windows and nerves though there were no initial reports of major damage. The national broadcaster NHK, citing local authorities, said 17 people were reported injured, some of them from falls as the quake struck. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake at 5:18 a.m. local time (2018 GMT Sunday) had a magnitude of 6.0 and was centered 160 kilometers (99 miles) under the seabed near Izu Oshima island south of Tokyo. The quake was felt across a wide area of Japan, with the strongest shaking registered in central Tokyo, the agency reported. Tokyo Fire Department reported that four people were injured, but details were not immediately available.

World

Nigerian leader: New order to free abducted girls

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan met with security, school and state officials and ordered that "everything must be done" to free the 276 girls held captive by Islamic extremists, one of his advisers said Sunday amid growing national outrage at the government's response to the abduction.

Jonathan said in a televised "media chat" Sunday night that he believes Nigeria is winning its war against an Islamic uprising.

Two bomb blasts in three weeks that have killed about 100 people and injured more than 200 in the capital, Abuja, "does not mean the situation is worsening," Jonathan said.

"I believe we are succeeding," he said, though the death tolls tell a different story.

More than 1,500 people have died in the insurgency this year, compared to an estimated 3,600 between 2010 and 2013. Both of the Abuja blasts are blamed on Boko Haram, the Islamic terrorist network.

Jonathan said he has been asking for and getting help from the United States but that President Barack Obama has expressed concern to him about allegations of gross human rights abuses by security forces accused of summary executions and the killings in detention of thousands of people.

"I said, `Send someone to see what we are doing and assist us, give us equipment that will help us, because we need sophisticated (equipment), don't just say there is some matter of alleged abuses," Jonathan said, describing one of two conversations with the U.S. leader.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry over the weekend promised help.

"The kidnapping of hundreds of children by Boko Haram is an unconscionable crime, and we will do everything possible to support the Nigerian government to return these young women to their homes and to hold the perpetrators to justice," Kerry said from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Jonathan's meeting over Saturday night was the first time the president had met with all stakeholders, including the principal of the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School in northeastern Nigeria where the girls and young women were kidnapped in a pre-dawn raid April 15, presidential adviser Reuben Abati told reporters.

Nigerians' anger at the failure to rescue the students, and protest marches last week in major Nigerian cities as well as New York City, have spurred to action Jonathan's government, which many see as uncaring of the girls' plight.

"The president has given very clear directives that everything must be done to ensure that these girls must be brought back to safety," Abati said.

The police said last week that the actual number abducted had risen to more than 300 and that 276 remain in captivity. It said 53 students managed to escape their captors. None have been rescued by the military, which initially said it was in hot pursuit of the abductors.

Some of the girls have been forced into "marriage" with their abductors and were paid a nominal bride price of $12, according to a federal senator from the area whose report is unverified.

Some of the young women have been taken across Nigeria's borders to Cameroon and Chad, parents said last week, quoting villagers. Child marriage is common in northern Nigeria, where it is allowed under Islamic law that clashes with the country's Western-style constitution.

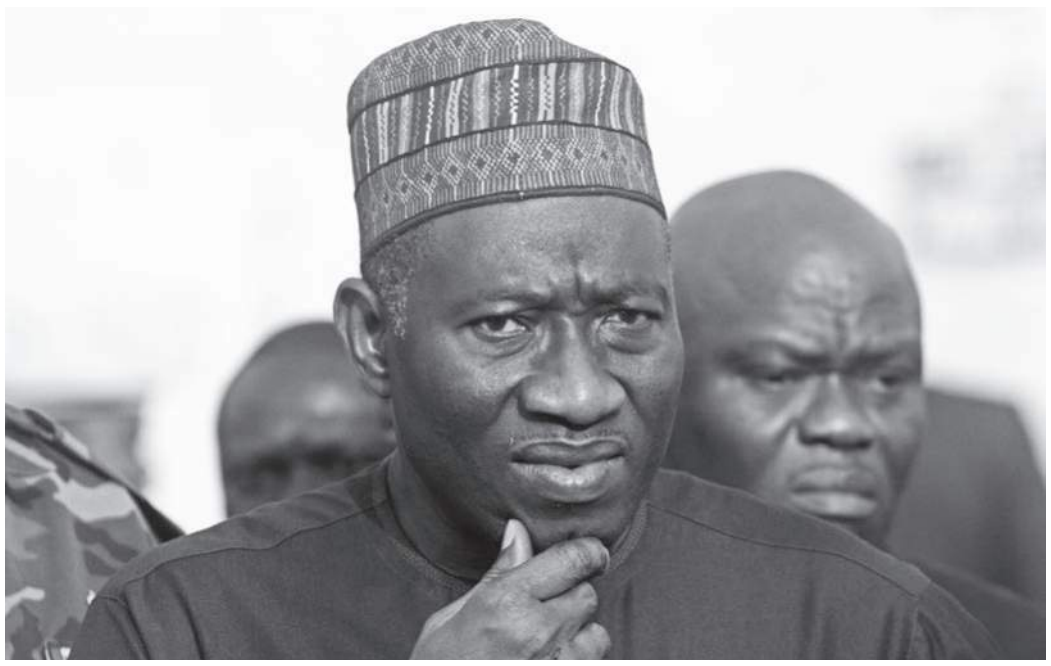
Anguished parents in Chibok town, who have lost confidence in the government and military, have been begging for international help.

In northeastern Nigeria, police Sunday morning foiled an attack by suicide bombers who had packed a pickup vehicle with explosives and petrol, the Defense Ministry said.

Police arrested one of the culprits, who said the target was a police post in the center of Damaturu, the capital of Yobe state, said spokesman Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade.

In a further indication of security threats confronting Nigeria, the U.S. Embassy on Friday warned Americans that "groups associated with terrorism" may be planning "an unspecified attack" on a Sheraton hotel in Nigeria's commercial center, Lagos. The city, on the Atlantic Ocean, has never been attacked, though police last year arrested six suspected extremists on popular Bar Beach.

The Sheraton hotel chain has two locally owned franchises in the southwestern city of about 20 million people. A duty manager at the $350-a-night Sheraton in Ikeja suburb, near the international airport, said he was unaware of any threat. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to reporters.

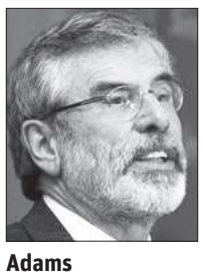


AP

In this Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012 file photo Nigeria President, Goodluck Jonathan, visits the site of a suicide bombed at the police headquarters in Kano, Nigeria, Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan met through the night with security, school and state officials and issued a new directive that "everything must be done" to free the 276 girls kidnapped by Islamic extremists, one of his advisers said Sunday, May 4, 2014.

Sinn Fein's Adams freed after 5 days in custody

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams was released without charge Sunday after five days of police questioning over his alleged involvement in a decades-old IRA killing of a Belfast mother of 10, an investigation that has driven a dangerous wedge into Northern Ireland's unity government.



Adams

Addressing reporters and supporters at a Belfast hotel, Adams said he wanted his party to provide help to the children of Jean McConville, the 37-year-old widow taken from her home by the Irish Republican Army in 1972, killed and dumped in an unmarked grave. He also rejected claims by IRA veterans in audiotaped interviews that he had ordered the killing.

"I am innocent of any involvement in any conspiracy to abduct, kill or bury Mrs. McConville. I have worked hard with others to have this injustice redressed," said Adams, 65, who has led Sinn Fein since 1983 and won credit for steering the IRA toward cease-fires and compromise with Northern Ireland's Protestant majority.

Yet the investigation of Adams is not over. Police said they have sent an evidence file to Northern Ireland prosecutors for potential charges later.

"For all I know I can still face charges," Adams said. He said he had been interviewed 33 times during 92 hours in custody. "One presumes they would have made a charge against me. But they offered no evidence against me whatsoever."

The episode has underscored the unrelenting hostility of some Protestants to Adams and his party's ambitions to merge Northern Ireland into the Republic of Ireland. His departure from the police's main interrogation center in Antrim, west of Belfast, was delayed two hours by a crowd of Protestants outside the front gate. The protesters waved Union Jack flags and held placards demanding justice for IRA victims. They roared with fury as a convoy of police armored vehicles came into view, thinking Adams' car was in the middle.

Odessa police free 67 detained in deadly clashes

ODESSA, Ukraine (AP)—Hundreds of pro-Russian demonstrators stormed police headquarters in Odessa on Sunday and won the release of 67 people detained after deadly clashes in the Ukrainian port city.

More than 40 people died in the riots two days earlier, some from gunshot wounds, but most in a horrific fire that tore through a trade union building.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who hinted strongly that he saw Moscow's hand in the unrest spreading through southeastern Ukraine, visited Odessa on Sunday to try to defuse the mounting tensions.

Odessa is the major city between the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in March, and the Moldovan separatist region of Trans-Dniester, where Russia has a military peacekeeping contingent.

Concerns are mounting that Russia ultimately aims to take control of a huge swath of Ukraine from Trans-Dniester to the east. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who calls the area historically Russian lands, has said he doesn't want to send in troops but will if necessary.

Yatsenyuk said police were being investigated for their failure to maintain order and he had charged prosecutors with "finding all instigators, all organizers and all those that under Russian leadership began a deadly attack on Ukraine and Odessa."

Earlier in the day, hundreds of pro-Russian demonstrators gathered in front of the scorched trade union building to honor those who died in Friday's blaze. Some draped a large Russian tricolor flag on the face of the building.

By mid-afternoon, a group of several hundred people marched to the police station to demand the release of fellow activists jailed over their involvement in the unrest. They attacked security surveillance cameras and smashed windows. Shortly after some of them managed to break into an inner courtyard, police yielded to the crowd's demands and released the prisoners.

As detainees emerged from the police station, the crowd cheered.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that 67 activists had been released. It was not immediately clear whether others were still being held.

Yatsenyuk's visit came as Ukrainian authorities renewed their push to quell a pro-Russian insurgency in the east. Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said in a statement on his Facebook page that an "antiterrorist operation" was being executed in the eastern city of Kramatorsk, the latest flashpoint for unrest.

"The operation was carried out by fighters of the National Guard and the armed forces. The active phase resumed at dawn. We will not stop," Avakov wrote.

The city saw a standoff Saturday that culminated in pro-Russian insurgents setting buses alight to ward off attacks. Russian state television has reported 10 deaths, including two among government forces, during clashes in Kramatorsk so far. Those figures could not be independently confirmed.

By midday Sunday, however, there was little sign of movement, from either government or insurgents on the ground. The burned-out shells of trolleybuses and a minibus lay in the road untouched.

At least 12 government armored personnel carriers were spotted driving through the town Saturday, although they appeared to have returned to their base at a military airfield on the edge of the city by day's end.

Opposing sides of the Ukraine conflict have traded bitter recriminations over the mass deaths that followed hours of bloody rioting on Friday in Odessa.

WORLD BRIEFS

Assad to face 2 others in Syrian presidential poll

BEIRUT (AP)—Embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad will face two other candidates in the coming June presidential election, the country's Supreme Constitutional Court announced Sunday, a vote he's widely expected to win amid the country's raging civil war. The court found 21 other candidates ineligible to run, court spokesman Majid Khadra said on state television. He did not elaborate. Assad, who is seeking a third seven-year term, will face Hassan bin Abdullah al-Nouri, a 54-year-old lawmaker from Damascus, and 43-year-old Maher Abdul-Hafiz Hajjar, a lawmaker from the northern city of Aleppo.

Outgoing leader's rival wins Panama's presidency

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Panamanians delivered a rebuke to President Ricardo Martinelli's attempt to extend his grip on power, electing as his successor a former ally turned rival in one of the toughest-fought contests since democracy was restored two decades ago. Vice President Juan Carlos Varela won Sunday's presidential election with 39 percent of the votes, compared to 32 percent for Martinelli's choice, political newcomer Jose Domingo Arias. Juan Carlos Navarro, a former mayor of the capital, got 28 percent to finish third in the seven-candidate field. Varela, who takes office July 1, dedicated his victory to Panama's democracy. Waving the nation's flag at a rally to celebrate his victory, he vowed to put aside the partisan bickering of the past five years and put an end to corruption that worsened under Martinelli.

Overdrive

Hyundai gives Genesis new designs, inside and out

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MCT
The 2015 Hyundai Genesis continues the brand's design aesthetics, adding a single-frame hexagonal grille and hi-tech, sculptured design.

Hyundai recently introduced the second generation of its Genesis luxury sedan for model year 2015, with lots of new standard features and technology, new designs inside and out, and new dimensions.

Prices begin at $38,000 for the V-6 model and range as high as $54,750 for the V-8.

Its exterior continues Hyundai's "fluidic" design aesthetic, adding a single-frame hexagonal grille and sculpted rear design. The new design features semi-gloss chrome and three-dimensional sections front and rear. The sculptured, full-LED taillight design gives the rear end a wide visual stance.

The dynamic profile brings a long hood and wheelbase, with sleek rear door pillars and window trim. Genesis' wheelbase has increased 2.9 inches, while overall length is up 0.2 inches, resulting in reduced overhangs—1.6 inches less in front and 1.2 inches less in the back, compared with the 2014 model.

Genesis' new interior design is sophisticated and high-class. Balanced proportions and horizontal design create a spacious atmosphere, and consistent button/switch details create ergonomic, intuitive operation.

New standard features include a driver's knee air bag, paddle shifters for the eight-speed automatic transmission, rain-sensing wipers for the auto-defog windshield, and power/folding outside mirrors with "Genesis" logo puddle lamps that project onto the ground.

Also included are a hands-free smart trunk opener; next-generation navigation with eight-inch display and rearview camera; 4.3-inch multi-info display; Blue Link infotainment system with Google access, HD radio and SiriusXM Travel Link (with three-year complimentary service); front passenger-seat power height and lumbar controls; tilt/telescopic steering wheel; rear one-touch up and down power windows; and hill hold control.

Hyundai also introduces an industry-first carbon dioxide sensor, available in the Ultimate package, which opens the cabin's fresh air vents if more than 2,000 parts per million CO2 is detected. This feature was conceived by an employee who struggled to stay alert on his long commute, a problem related to high levels of CO2.

The hands-free smart trunk opener operates if the proximity key is within 3 feet for longer than three seconds—a plus if your hands are full, a minus is you are casually standing nearby, as happened to us. The hazard lights blink and a buzzer sounds three times to indicate the key has been detected and to allow the operator to step away if trunk opening isn't desired. The system can be disabled from the center instrument cluster.

For 2015, Genesis will continue to offer two engine configurations, a 3.8-liter V-6 and 5.0-liter V-8, with 10 trim combinations possible using four options packages.

All 3.8-liter models will be available in rear- and all-wheel drive. The AWD package adds heated rear seats, heated steering wheel and headlamp washers, but is not available at least for now with the V-8 engine.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Hyundai Genesis:
- Base price: $38,000
- Price as tested: $49,000

Prices exclude destination charge.

Rear-wheel drive models are expected to achieve 18 mpg in the city, 29 on the highway and 22 combined. All-wheel drive models should achieve 16/25/19.

All models come with an eight-speed automatic transmission with the Shiftronic paddle shifters and the new intelligent Drive Mode Select with Eco/Normal/Snow/Sport modes.

Genesis offers 10 premium exterior colors in pearl and metallic finishes, and four interior colors, with new gray and ivory for added luxury appeal. The standard leather interior is trimmed in either brown or gray wood grain, with optional matte-finish genuine walnut or ash available.

For this report, I drove the Genesis 3.8 RWD model in Pamplona Red with Beige interior. The Ultimate package added wood trim and the matte-finish aluminum highlights, a color heads-up display, a power trunk lid, premium driver-information/navigation system with 9.2 inch HD display, Lexicon 17-speaker Discrete Logic7 audio system and dual-mode vent control with the new CO2 sensor.

The heads-up display included vehicle speed and the local speed limit, turn-by-turn navigation, blind-spot detection warning, smart cruise control with forward collision warning, lane departure graphics and "welcome/goodbye" greetings. We were impressed with the content and function of the display, especially as it was easy to see and read even in bright light, and helped reduce driver distraction.

The driver information system is part of a communications/entertainment/navigation system introduced in 2009, consisting of the on-dash monitor and the center armrest joystick-style controller. The controller is conveniently located and easier to use than a touch screen. The system can also be voice-activated.

Power outlets and the auxiliary audio and USB ports are also conveniently located at the front of the center console. Center-stack buttons and knobs are old-school, well-labeled and easy to use. The cubby under the armrest is deep, with a removable tray.

A Tech Package upgraded the seats to ultra-leather, and also added 7-inch LCD cluster display, power driver's seat cushion extender and side bolsters, lane-departure warning and lane-keep assist, smart cruise control with stop/start capability, haptic steering wheel, automatic emergency braking, high-beam assist, electronic parking brake with vehicle hold, and front and rear parking assistance.

The haptic steering wheel provides vibrations for functions such as lane-departure warnings, along with the visual warning in the heads-up display, which are less startling than bells or buzzers.

Automatic emergency braking uses the forward camera and smart cruise control system to avoid a potential collision or reduce the impact by applying the brakes if another vehicle or object is detected at an unsafe approaching rate.

High-beam assist reduces blinding effects on other drivers by changing to low beams whenever it detects an oncoming vehicle or vehicle ahead in the same lane at night, and switches back to high beams when no vehicle is detected.

My Genesis also included a Signature package with a power tilt/slide panoramic sunroof, integrated memory system, cooled front seats, power tilt/telescopic steering wheel, high-intensity-discharge headlights, auto-dimming outside mirrors, blind-spot detection with rear cross-traffic alert, parking guidelines, and power rear sunshade/manual rear side sunshades.

Hyundai also provides satellite radio, Assurance Connected Care (standard for three years), and a Bluetooth hands-free phone system with audio streaming.

Odyssey's air-bag warning light needs to be checked out

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2005 Honda Odyssey. About two months ago the passenger air bag light started coming on. I took it in for an oil change and the mechanic said it's nothing to worry about. It bugs me. Can you give me an answer?

ANSWER: No, but Honda's scan tool can. Anytime there's a question or issue with air bags or supplemental restraint systems, have the issue investigated. Why? Because any fault or problem can influence, even prevent, these systems from deploying properly in a crash.

Your vehicle has an impact sensor and a weight sensor in the passenger seat that can determine whether the passenger air bag should deploy or not in a crash. With an occupant weight of 65 pounds or less or a frontal impact where the seatbelt would offer adequate protection, the passenger air bag will not deploy.

If the passenger seat, its upholstery or the OPDS system (occupant position detection system) have been serviced, a re-initialization is required. Also, Honda did issue a recall for a potentially defective front impact sensor on some 2005 Odysseys, but this is unlikely the issue with your vehicle.

Q: I have a 1966 Mustang. I have noticed in the past couple of years that when I first start driving, the right front wheel will lock up and slide on a dirt road and the car wants to turn right immediately. After driving the car for a couple of miles, the brakes work fine and the car stops straight as an arrow. I had the brakes inspected and there were no leaks or other problems. The mechanic said that sometimes the brake hoses can deteriorate from the inside, so I had them changed, but the car still wants to turn right at the first stop. I have read that if a brake line has a stoppage it might cause this. Is this a problem with the right front wheel or maybe the left front wheel is not getting enough hydraulic pressure?

A: Let me offer two other possibilities: moisture or contamination on the brake shoe friction material and (this is a long shot) the brake shoes on the right front are reversed, meaning the leading shoe is in the trailing position and vice versa.

Many drum brake systems feature a leading shoe that is pushed by the hydraulic wheel cylinder into the direction of rotation of the brake drum. This gives the leading shoe a self-energizing characteristic, meaning that initial contact with the drum tends to self-apply the friction material on the shoe.

In most cases, the leading shoe has a section of shoe at the wheel cylinder end that has no friction material to reduce the self-energizing characteristic. If the two brake shoes are reversed with the full-length friction material of the trailing shoe mounted in the lead position, the self-energizing characteristic is magnified.

Any type of contamination on the friction material will change the coefficient of friction and can initially cause a significant imbalance of brake force. As the material is heated and/or dried by application, this characteristic often fades.

To perform a quick DIY test of brake hydraulic pressure, place the front end safely on jack stands and have an assistant apply steady light brake pedal pressure while you rotate each front wheel, feeling for the first indication of brake shoe contact with the drum. Both front wheels should initially exhibit this at the same level of brake pressure.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Tears of joy: Pharrell 'happy' at awards show

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Pharrell is still full of tears of joy—even after that viral interview with Oprah Winfrey.

The producer-rapper-singer was teary-eyed after he performed a medley of his hits at the iHeartRadio Music Awards and earned the innovator award for his contributions to music.

"I never dreamt in a million, million, million years as a producer that I would be standing here as an artist," the 41-year-old told the crowd Thursday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. "All I did was write the songs and you guys did all the heavy lifting, all the hard work."

Pharrell performed his songs "Happy" and "Come Get It Bae," as well as two of last year's biggest hits that he was a part of—Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" and Daft Punk's "Get Lucky."

"I gotta thank my savior, I gotta thank God ... my wife and my son, Rocket," said Pharrell, who rarely acknowledges his personal life.

Pharrell famously cried in an interview with Winfrey last month. She appeared in a video, which included Beyonce and Lady Gaga, praising Pharrell's talent.

But Pharrell wasn't the only star in happy mood: Rihanna was the night's big winner, taking home four trophies including artist and song of the year for the slow tune, "Stay."

"It's not easy what we do. It's very difficult at times. It's a lot of pressure to be a lot of things, and I've never felt comfortable being anything other than myself—and I just thank my fans for being supportive," said Rihanna.

The pop star also won best fan army and hip-hop/R&B song of the year for the anthemic "Pour It Up."

Pitbull kicked off the first iHeartRadio Music Awards with a colorful performance—and words for Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling.

"I want to welcome the world to the first iHeartRadio Music Awards. Now everyone that's here is a who's who, a what's what, the anybody's of all anybody's—except of course for Donald Sterling," he told the crowd after his performance.

"So, with that said, you can take a picture with whoever you want tonight—even Magic Johnson," he said to cheers.

Sterling was banned for life from the NBA and fined $2.5 million Tuesday for making racist comments.

Pitbull, who won best collaboration for the No. 1 hit "Timber" with Kesha, performed that song and "Wild Wild Love" with girl group G.R.L. and female background dancers who wore white and gold.

Usher also enticed the crowd when he danced slickly to the new Michael Jackson single, "Love Never Felt This Good," and 20-year-old Ariana Grande performed her new jam "Problem" in a mini black dress and white knee-high boots that even had Rihanna blushing.

Obama jokes about Putin at correspondents' dinner

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama joked about Russian President Vladimir Putin and issues closer to home as he headlined the White House Correspondents' Association dinner Saturday night.

The annual tradition has the president mocking others and himself as celebrities mingle with journalists and politicians.

Obama made fun of conservative television hosts' talk about Putin's bare chest, and he joked about opposition claims that he had been born overseas instead of the United States.

Looking ahead to a possible successor in office, Obama said it will be a lot harder for Republicans to prove that Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in Kenya.

Obama

The president also poked fun at CNN's extensive coverage of the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane. He said he was still jetlagged from his visit in recent days to Malaysia and added, "The lengths we have to go to get CNN coverage these days!"

Obama also turned the humor on himself and his difficult 2013, including the deeply troubled rollout of the website for his health care overhaul.

First Lady Michelle Obama accompanied him to the black tie event, and Joel McHale, star of the NBC series "Community," was the dinner's featured entertainer. Celebrities attending included Sofia Vergara and the stars of Washington-centric shows like "Veep" and "Scandal."

The dinner has often come at key moments of Obama's presidency. In 2011, Obama showed up the day before special operations troops killed Osama bin Laden. Last year's dinner came nearly two weeks after the deadly Boston Marathon.

This time, the U.S. and Europe are anxiously watching Ukraine and Russia's role in the turbulence in the eastern region of the former Soviet state.

The correspondent's association, which represents the White House press corps, is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Several journalists were awarded prizes for their coverage of the presidency and national issues.

AP

This image released by Sony Pictures shows Andrew Garfield and Dane DeHaan in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

'Spider-Man 2' ropes in $92 million opening

NEW YORK (AP)—Spider-Man can still sling it at the box office.

"The Amazing Spider-Man 2" debuted with $92 million in North American theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. It was a solid opening for Sony's Columbia Pictures, which has released five movies about Marvel's web-slinging superhero in the last 14 years.

The release of "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" essentially kicks off Hollywood's summer season and its annual parade of sequels and spectacle. Marvel movies have regularly commenced summer moviegoing in recent years, and the "Spider-Man 2" opening begins the season with a business-as-usual blockbuster performance.

Last week's No. 1 film, the female revenge comedy "The Other Woman," starring Cameron Diaz, slid to a distant second with $14 million in its second weekend.

The rebooted "Spider-Man" franchise starring Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone isn't performing quite as strongly as Sam Raimi's trilogy with Tobey Maguire. On opening weekends, the Raimi films grossed, in order: $114.1 million, $88.2 million and $151.1 million.

The "The Amazing Spider-Man," also directed by Marc Webb, opened on a Tuesday in 2012, making $62 million on its debut weekend and $137 million over its first six days.

The new sequel, which began rolling out overseas two weeks ago, is also doing huge international business. It has already grossed $161 million abroad, and it added another $116 million over the weekend.

That included $10.4 million from China, where it opened Sunday on a record 11,002 screens. And it set a record for Hollywood titles in India with a $6.5 million debut.

"Everywhere we opened just popped," said Rory Bruer, head of domestic distribution for Sony.

Domestically, families made up 33 percent of the audience of the PG-13 "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," a high percentage for a superhero film.

"It did seem to have a very strong component to the film, which we felt was an opportunity," Bruer said. "It also lends itself to a picture that will be around the market for a while, too."

But as Hollywood's summer rolls on, the competition gets stiffer. In two weeks, Warner Bros. opens the highly anticipated monster movie "Godzilla."

Jack Bauer's back to save the day in '24' revival

NEW YORK (AP)—Jack's back.

A counterterrorism agent forced to go rogue, Jack Bauer had been lying low since 2010. He's been off the grid and off-screen since the final cycle of "24."

For eight seasons of this Fox thriller, the indomitable Bauer repeatedly saved the country from innumerable disasters (or tried to) at grave cost to himself. But far from being showered in the thanks of a grateful nation, he was branded and re-branded a most-wanted villain for his service. He had no choice but to go on the lam.

Viewers—like his fictional pursuers on "24"—might reasonably have given up on ever seeing Jack again.

But on "24: Live Another Day," he is nabbed by the CIA shortly after 11 a.m., London time, as this real-time, sequential drama erupts with the first of a dozen episodes that will carry the saga to a breathless resolution 12 hours later in the same hectic day.

Noted: Past "24" seasons ran 24 hours, hence the series' title. So "12" might have been a more appropriate, if lame-sounding, name for this miniseries, which premieres Monday at 8 p.m. EDT with two episodes, spanning the period from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A few possible spoilers follow.

Returning as the intrepid, long-suffering Bauer is Kiefer Sutherland, whose far more upbeat post-"24" drama, "Touch," was axed a year ago after just two seasons.

Also back is Mary Lynn Rajskub as marvelously mopey Chloe O'Brian. Bauer's former Counter-Terrorism Unit running buddy has had her share of tribulations of late, including torture and charges of treason as well as a severe Goth makeover.

And also back, remarkably, is Kim Raver, who, as Bauer's former heartthrob Audrey, was last seen in the conclusion of Season 6 in a coma from which she was not expected to emerge. But there is no happy reunion in store for Jack. It's quite the opposite, even though he—ever the trickster—deliberately contrives to be captured by authorities.

What's Jack's game? He's gotten wind that James Heller, previously U.S. defense secretary but now the nation's chief executive (played by the returning William Devane), is targeted for assassination while in London for a summit meeting.

Still the driven do-gooder, Jack is hellbent on foiling this plan. But it requires him to resurface and tangle with CIA officials (played by Benjamin Bratt and Yvonne Strahovski) as well as President Heller's chief of staff (Tate Donovan), who is now married to—wait for it—Audrey, after having seen her through her miraculous recovery.

Author: Courtney Love, not Kurt Cobain, wrote note

SEATTLE (AP)—One of the foremost experts on Kurt Cobain said the late grunge rocker did not pen a note mocking his wedding vows to fellow musician Courtney Love.

Love herself wrote it, said Seattle author Charles R. Cross, who has written several books on Cobain, including the biography "Heavier Than Heaven." Cross said Love emailed him to say that she wrote the note and that she gave it to Cobain before their wedding in 1991.

"Early in their relationship, they wrote notes like that to each other constantly," Cross said. "The handwriting is absolutely Courtney's."

Police found the note in Cobain's wallet after he killed himself in 1994. It received a lot of media attention last week after CBS News published it, saying it was presumably written by Cobain and that it was sure to stoke questions about what role his marriage played in his death. The note references Love as Cobain's "lawful shredded wife" who would be "siphoning" his money for drugs.

AP

This April 1994 photo from the Seattle Police Department shows a wallet containing Kurt Cobain's Washington state driver's license, found at the scene of his suicide, in Seattle.

"The note was promoted as Kurt mocking their wedding vows three years after they were married. It just doesn't make any sense," Cross said.

Cross said the couple often wrote each other such sarcastic notes.

Cobain's body was discovered in Seattle on April 8, 1994. An investigation determined that days earlier Cobain had gone into the greenhouse of his home and taken a massive dose of heroin. He then shot himself with a 20-gauge shotgun.

Earlier this year, in advance of the 20th anniversary of Cobain's suicide, a Seattle detective reviewed the case files, including evidence photos and statements. He found no new information to change the police conclusion that Cobain took his own life.

Friends, relatives mourn L'Wren Scott at memorial

NEW YORK (AP)—Mick Jagger sang Bob Dylan's "Just Like a Woman" at a celebrity-filled memorial service Friday for his longtime companion, fashion designer L'Wren Scott, who committed suicide in March.

The service, held at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan, included words of tribute from Jagger as well as Scott's brother, Randy Bambrough; her good friend actress Ellen Barkin; fashion personality Andre Leon Talley; and actress Sarah Jessica Parker, according to a statement from Jagger's publicist Vicki Scarfone.

Poems were shared by Scott's niece, Hannah Bambrough, and Jagger's son, James Jagger. The Rolling Stones rocker's grandchildren, Mazie and Zak, read Psalm 23. Besides Jagger's rendition of the Dylan song, his longtime backup singer Lisa Fischer sang "Amazing Grace."

The service was followed by a reception.

Others attending included actresses Julianne Moore, Meg Ryan, Olivia Munn and Renee Zellweger; Vogue editor Anna Wintour; film directors Martin Scorsese and Baz Luhrmann; and Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter. Fans lined against barricades to take photos.

A small private funeral was held for Scott in Los Angeles in March.

Producer on Jackson album: Everyone did a good job

NEW YORK (AP)—When Michael Jackson's record label released his first posthumous album in 2010, a year after the King of Pop's sudden death, producer Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins was asked to work on the project.

He declined.

"I was asked to be on that album and to produce like five songs, but I turned it down," he said. "I just felt like it wasn't time."

Years later, the hitmaker for Destiny's Child and Whitney Houston—who worked heavily on Jackson's 2001 comeback album, "Invincible"—says he now feels comfortable producing Jackson's music again. He produced the title track from the upcoming album, "Xscape," out May 13.

"For me it wasn't about the label, it wasn't about the estate's approval; it wasn't about all of that," he said. "I had a personal relationship with Michael, (so) it was about, 'What would he want from this? What would he want it to sound like now?'"

"Xscape" was executive produced by Timbaland and includes songs Jackson recorded in the 1980s and 1990s. Some of the tracks are taken from early recording sessions for successful albums such as "Bad" and "Dangerous."

The first single, "Love Never Felt So Good," was written with Paul Anka and premiered at the iHeartRadio Music Awards on Thursday night when Usher danced to the song. A bonus version of the track features Justin Timberlake.

Jerkins said he and Jackson originally started work on the song "Xscape" in 1999 when they recorded the "Invincible" album. He revisited the track in 2003 and retouched it this year for the new eight-track album.

"Even when Michael was alive, we never stopped working on the song 'Xscape,'" he said. "It was one of those songs where he specifically said to me, 'It has to see the light of day one day.'"

Jerkins said he visited Jackson in 2007 in Ireland where they were "vibing out," but didn't focus on creating music exclusively.

"And I then I spoke to him—I would say 2008, 2009, something like that—and he was telling me, 'I'm getting ready to do another album. You gotta get to work. Start working on ideas,'" he recalled. "And then he passed away."

Jerkins, who has produced hits for Jennifer Lopez, Beyonce and Brandy, is working on new music with Rihanna and Ariana Grande.

Wynn wins $7.5M against 'Girls Gone Wild' founder

CARSON CITY, Nevada (AP)—The Nevada Supreme Court has upheld Steve Wynn's $7.5 million judgment in a civil defamation case against "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis.

A three-justice panel in an order dated Thursday rejected arguments by Francis that a default judgment granted by a Clark County judge in 2012 should be set aside because his attorneys had withdrawn and he was unable to defend himself.

Justices said the soft-porn video empire founder's last-minute attempts to challenge the default were an attempt to stall proceedings.

Wynn sued Francis in 2008 amid a legal tussle over a $2 million gambling debt Francis incurred the year before at the Wynn Las Vegas resort.

In 2012, Wynn was awarded $21 million against Francis after a separate slander trial in Los Angeles.

Jeremy Clarkson apologizes over racist language

LONDON (AP)—"Top Gear" host Jeremy Clarkson has apologized and asked for forgiveness following allegations that he used racist language while he was shooting an episode of the popular BBC show.

Clarkson became embroiled in a racism controversy after a tabloid published a clip of him apparently using the N-word while reciting the nursery rhyme "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe" during filming. The clip, recorded several years ago, was never broadcast.

Clarkson initially denied using racist language. But he later said he "mumbled where the offensive word would normally occur" despite trying not to, and that he was mortified by the mistake.

The BBC said Friday it is taking the incident seriously.

Clarkson, a household name in Britain, had previously sparked complaints with allegedly racist comments about people from Mexico and Asia.

Gift packaging promises more than it can deliver

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently went in on a gift with my friend "Ali" for our other friend, "Gena." Ali offered to purchase and wrap the gift, a nice wallet from an inexpensive store. Imagine my surprise when Ali turned up at Gena's birthday party with the wallet elaborately wrapped in expensive designer paper.

At first, I thought she had spent more of her money and upgraded our gift, but when Gena unwrapped the designer packaging to reveal the original wallet we had selected, I was taken aback. It turned out that Ali had reused the wrapping paper from a gift her husband had given her, disguising our present as something it wasn't.

Gena was clearly disappointed. Other guests who had been eyeing it looked excited at first, then confused. I felt our gift wasn't appreciated and we ended up looking cheap. I was at a loss for words. What would have been the appropriate way to handle the situation? Is this normal gift-wrapping practice, or did Ali cross the line?

FLABBERGASTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR FLABBERGASTED: Reusing wrapping paper isn't unusual. Gena's reaction to the gift was inappropriate. Instead of letting her disappointment show, Gena should have smiled and graciously thanked you and Ali for her gift. (Remember the phrase, "It's the thought that counts"?) As for you, all you needed to say was "Happy Birthday!"

■■■

DEAR ABBY: With Mother's Day nearly upon us, would you remind your readers that stepmothers are worthy of recognition, too? If one has any regard for the feelings of his or her stepmom, PLEASE make her day by calling or visiting her and telling her how much she means to you. And I don't mean a phone call at 9 p.m.

I married my husband when his sons were in their late teens. Every Mother's Day for 14 years I have been reminded that his sons choose not to recognize me, even though our relationships are very good. (One of them is a stepfather himself.) It's a real heartbreaker, believe me.

GIVING UP ON WAITING IN OREGON

DEAR GIVING UP ON WAITING: If you think you are the only stepmother who feels unappreciated on Mother's Day, think again. I have heard from many stepmothers who have written letters that are variations on this theme. There can be reasons for it—the fact that you didn't raise them, fear that it would be somehow disloyal to their birth mother, unresolved relationship issues or just being preoccupied.

If you haven't discussed this with your stepsons, perhaps you should. Or better yet, your husband should. But if that doesn't solve the problem, for your own sake, stop brooding about it and direct your attention elsewhere.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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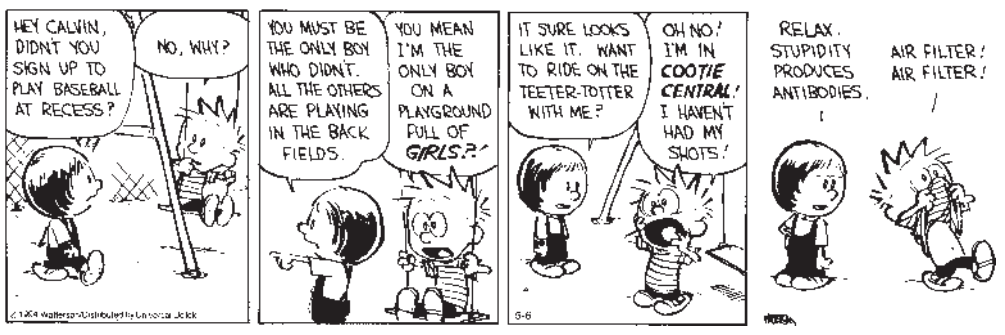
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY CALVIN, DIDN'T YOU SIGN UP TO PLAY BASEBALL AT RECESS?
NO, WHY?
YOU MUST BE THE ONLY BOY WHO DIDN'T. ALL THE OTHERS ARE PLAYING IN THE BACK FIELDS.
YOU MEAN I'M THE ONLY BOY ON A PLAYGROUND FULL OF GIRLS?!
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE IT. WANT TO RIDE ON THE TEETER-TOTTER WITH ME?
OH NO! I'M IN COOTIE CENTRAL! I HAVEN'T HAD MY SHOTS!
RELAX. STUPIDITY PRODUCES ANTIBODIES.
AIR FILTER! AIR FILTER!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHEN DO WE GET TO SEE YOUR COMIC?
"PONIES OF FIRE."
"PONIES OF FIRE"?
THAT'S THE NAME. I'LL BE LAUNCHING IT TOMORROW.
LAUNCHING IT WHERE?
HOUSEWIDE.
WOW. EVEN UPSTAIRS.
I'M WORKING ON DISTRIBUTION WITH CLAYTON, BUT IT'S LOOKING GOOD

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

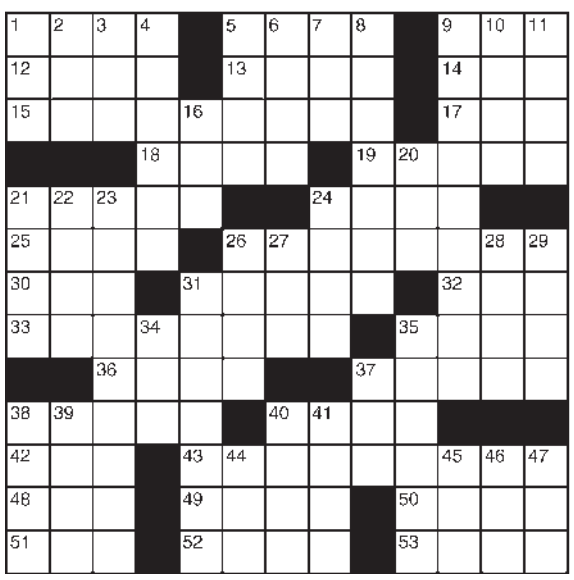
ACROSS
1 Leading man?
5 Surmounting
9 — Beta Kappa
12 Game played on horseback
13 Caesar's "I came"
14 Tatter
15 Orangey liqueur
17 Raw mineral
18 Section
19 Beneficial possession
21 Founded (on)
24 Genealogy chart
25 Help a hood
26 Migraine, e.g.
30 Actor Cage, to fans
31 Baseball's Sosa
32 Eg. and Syr., once
33 Miscellaneous remnants
35 Use a swizzle stick
36 Lends a hand
37 Pub orders
38 Cleopatra's carrier
40 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
42 Here (Fr.)
43 Division in half
48 Lingerie item
49 "The Thin Man" dog
50 Possess
51 Stein or Stiller
52 Incursion
53 Send forth

DOWN
1 Suitable
2 "Le Coq —"
3 "The Greatest"
4 Tyke
5 Declare openly
6 Criterion
7 Indivisible
8 "Roses of —" (pop song of WWI)
9 Bring legal action against
10 Aesopian runner-up
11 "— a Kick Out of You"
16 Young chap
20 Vast expanse
21 Combo
22 Rose's love, in the theater
23 Denominational
24 Scots' 26-Down
26 See 24-Down
27 Ostrich's cousin
28 Barber's concern
29 Blunders
31 Courtroom conference
34 Manipulate fraudulently
35 Boil
37 Pen name?
38 Variety of lettuce
39 Farm fraction
40 Italian wine area
41 Plumbum
44 "There — tide ..."
45 Cartesian conclusion
46 Egg (Pref.)
47 Profit

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	O	S	S	■	P	I	C	■	P	A	D	S
A	L	A	C	A	R	T	E	■	A	L	O	E
C	A	M	E	R	O	O	N	■	S	I	Z	E
■	■	■	N	I	P	■	T	A	S	T	E	D
M	O	V	E	D	■	G	I	V	E	■	■	■
A	P	E	S	■	C	A	M	E	L	O	T	■
P	E	G	■	P	O	L	E	R	■	B	O	A
■	C	A	M	E	R	A	S	■	T	I	N	D
■	■	■	O	A	R	S	■	P	R	E	S	S
J	U	M	B	L	E	■	S	E	I	■	■	■
A	I	A	I	■	C	A	M	F	I	I	I	A
C	A	L	L	■	T	R	O	L	L	I	N	G
K	N	E	E	■	S	A	G	■	S	E	G	O

Yesterday's answer 5-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gabourey Sidibe, 31; George Clooney, 53; Tom Bergeron, 59; Willie Mays, 83

Happy Birthday: It's best to be a little secretive this year when it comes to your personal and professional goals and intentions. You are best to surprise everyone with your actions if you want to avoid interference. Keep your strategy precise and moderate, and you will find the success you are searching for. Less talk and more action will pay off. Your numbers are 7, 15, 18, 26, 29, 33, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your competitive nature will help you succeed at whatever you decide to take on. You will thrive on being busy and accomplishing as much as possible. Romance will improve your love life and bring you greater happiness. Network and socialize. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Compromise and go with the flow when dealing with partners or family matters. Don't draw attention to the things you are doing until you have gone over all the fine details and are confident with what you have to present. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Concentrate on what you can do to improve your personal life. Favors will be granted, and changes to the way you live can be made. Love is apparent, and making a commitment or doing something romantic will improve an important relationship. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be reluctant to believe everything you hear or to follow what someone else decides to do. Protect your reputation, your assets and important relationships. Put more emphasis on your skills and doing the best job possible. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stand up and do your thing. Don't be afraid to take action or to step into the spotlight. What you do will make a difference, but what you say may cause you grief. Remember, actions will speak louder than words. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to what has worked for you in the past. Don't hesitate to take a conservative route, and don't let what others do sidetrack you. Trust in your judgment and your abilities, and you will reach your destination. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do your best to keep the peace, but don't let anyone push you around or make poor choices for you. Change may be necessary if you aren't being treated with respect. Size up your situation and do what needs to be done. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Find a quiet space that will inspire a creative idea you want to develop. Don't let someone's criticism deter you from doing what will make you happy. You will learn a lot about someone if you listen and observe. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may thrive on excitement, but to avoid trouble, you are best to be realistic. Don't take risks when you should concentrate on protecting what you have. Romance can provide the adventure you need. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Getting all worked up over something you cannot change isn't worth it. Give your attention to individuals who have always offered you friendship, loyalty and respect. Problems can be expected while traveling or if you get into a debate. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can accomplish a lot if you redirect your energy into new ways to earn a living. Your original, experimental personality will help you come up with a sideline to help bolster your income. Be sure to set aside some time for romance. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can secure your position and expand your interests if you take part in community events. Taking on a responsibility may seem daunting at first, but in the end you will gain experience as well as be rewarded for your effort. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic and expressive. You are intense, strong-willed and competitive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					5		8	
		3						4
	7		6	9				
		1		3	6			9
		8	1	7	2	4		
3			5	4		7		
				5	8		7	
9						2		
	1		3					

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	5	9	4	1	7	8	3
1	8	7	6	3	5	9	2	4
3	4	9	8	7	2	5	1	6
8	2	6	7	5	3	1	4	9
7	5	4	1	8	9	3	6	2
9	3	1	2	6	4	8	5	7
5	1	3	4	2	7	6	9	8
6	9	2	3	1	8	4	7	5
4	7	8	5	9	6	2	3	1

Difficulty Level ★ 5/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CRAFTY IDEAS **Solution: 5 letters**

G	A	K	B	I	R	D	S	S	P	M	A	T	S	C
N	N	N	A	L	A	R	O	L	F	D	O	O	W	A
I	I	I	S	Y	A	L	C	L	I	F	L	A	G	S
K	M	T	K	P	H	O	T	O	S	E	T	R	A	T
A	A	T	E	O	L	O	R	D	C	A	L	T	R	L
B	L	I	T	L	O	A	L	A	N	R	I	W	D	E
T	S	N	A	N	M	B	L	I	A	E	U	O	E	L
O	H	G	B	A	I	K	P	E	D	P	Q	R	N	B
Y	E	E	L	O	C	A	K	A	L	A	B	K	O	A
S	S	E	A	E	O	A	P	G	R	P	Y	X	T	L
C	E	R	N	T	S	K	N	U	M	C	E	W	T	C
A	V	T	K	P	E	I	S	M	E	S	S	A	O	Y
R	O	C	E	D	W	R	T	E	H	C	O	R	C	C
D	D	E	T	E	P	P	U	P	C	A	N	D	L	E
S	K	K	S	A	M	O	S	A	I	C	O	L	O	R

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Animals, Artwork, Baking, Basket, Birds, Blankets, Books, Boxes, Candle, Cards, Castle, Clay, Collages, Color, Cotton, Crochet, Decor, Diorama, Dolls, Doves, Draw, Flags, Floral, Garden, Holiday, Keepsake, Knitting, Mask, Mess, Mosaic, Necklace, Paint, Paper, Photos, Pinata, Puppet, Quilt, Recyclable, Scrapbooking, Sewing, Stamps, Theater, Toys, Tree, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Vegetables

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38** call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1)Accountant. B.S. Accounting Graduate. 3-5 years experience in Accounting field. Must have working knowledge on Accounting Softwares. $5.55/hour. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

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Closing Date: May 9, 2014
Please mail resume to P. O. Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

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- Willing to work in flexible hours
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Please send your resume to REM International Corp.

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Pierce's block leads Nets past Raptors, 104-103

TORONTO (AP)—Slowed by foul trouble and struggling with his shot, Paul Pierce still found a way to come up big for the Brooklyn Nets.

And, right when they needed him most.

Pierce blocked Kyle Lowry's shot from the lane on the final play of the game, and the Nets held off the Toronto Raptors 104-103 in Game 7 on Sunday to advance to the second round of the playoffs.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," Pierce said. "I saw him split the defenders, I saw him go up, I went up with him.

"I got my hand on the ball—game over."

The Nets will begin the conference semifinals at Miami on Tuesday night, facing the two-time defending NBA champion Heat.

Pierce had more fouls (three) than points (none) in the second half, but his only block of the game punctuated a hard-fought series win for the Nets.

Leading by one, Brooklyn used its final timeout after failing to inbound the ball. On the second opportunity, Shaun Livingston tried a lob pass to Pierce, but Terrence Ross got a hand on the ball and then knocked it off Pierce and out of bounds for a turnover.

"I rushed it a little bit," Livingston said. "I'm thinking Paul is going to hold him off. He kind of slipped there. Once he slipped, it was a jump ball and Terrence Ross is probably the last guy you want to throw a jump ball to."

Toronto used a timeout and gave the ball to Lowry, whose driving shot was blocked by Pierce as time expired. Lowry lay prone in the key as the Nets surged onto the court in celebration.

"I really didn't have a great offensive game," Pierce said. "I was in foul trouble for most of the night. Sometimes you've got to find ways to help your ballclub win."

Nets coach Jason Kidd said Brooklyn's defense "bent a little" but didn't break, thanks mostly to Pierce's clutch play.

"Paul said it best, that's why he's here, to make plays," Kidd said. "He didn't have a great game, but it only takes one play to help a team win and that's what he did tonight."

Brooklyn went 4-0 against Miami in the regular season, but that didn't mean much to Brooklyn's Kevin Garnett.

"That goes out the window," he said. "This is the postseason. They're playing very well. They went right through Charlotte without a beat and they have a lot of confidence."

Joe Johnson scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Nets. Marcus Thornton scored 17, Garnett had 12 points and 11 rebounds for his first double-double of the series, and Deron Williams added 13 points.

"Joe has kept us alive this whole series," Garnett said.

Amir Johnson fouled out with 20 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, which trailed by 10 with just over six minutes remaining before storming back and having a chance to win it at the buzzer.

"They pushed us to the brink," Livingston said.

Lowry finished with 28 points and DeMar DeRozan 18 for the Raptors, who fell to 0-2 in franchise history when playing in a Game 7. Toronto lost Game 7 of the conference semifinals to Philadelphia in 2001.

"We were right there," said a rueful Raptors coach Dwane Casey.

The Raptors, who won the Atlantic Division and set a franchise record with 48 wins, have not won a playoff series since 2001, losing in all three appearances.

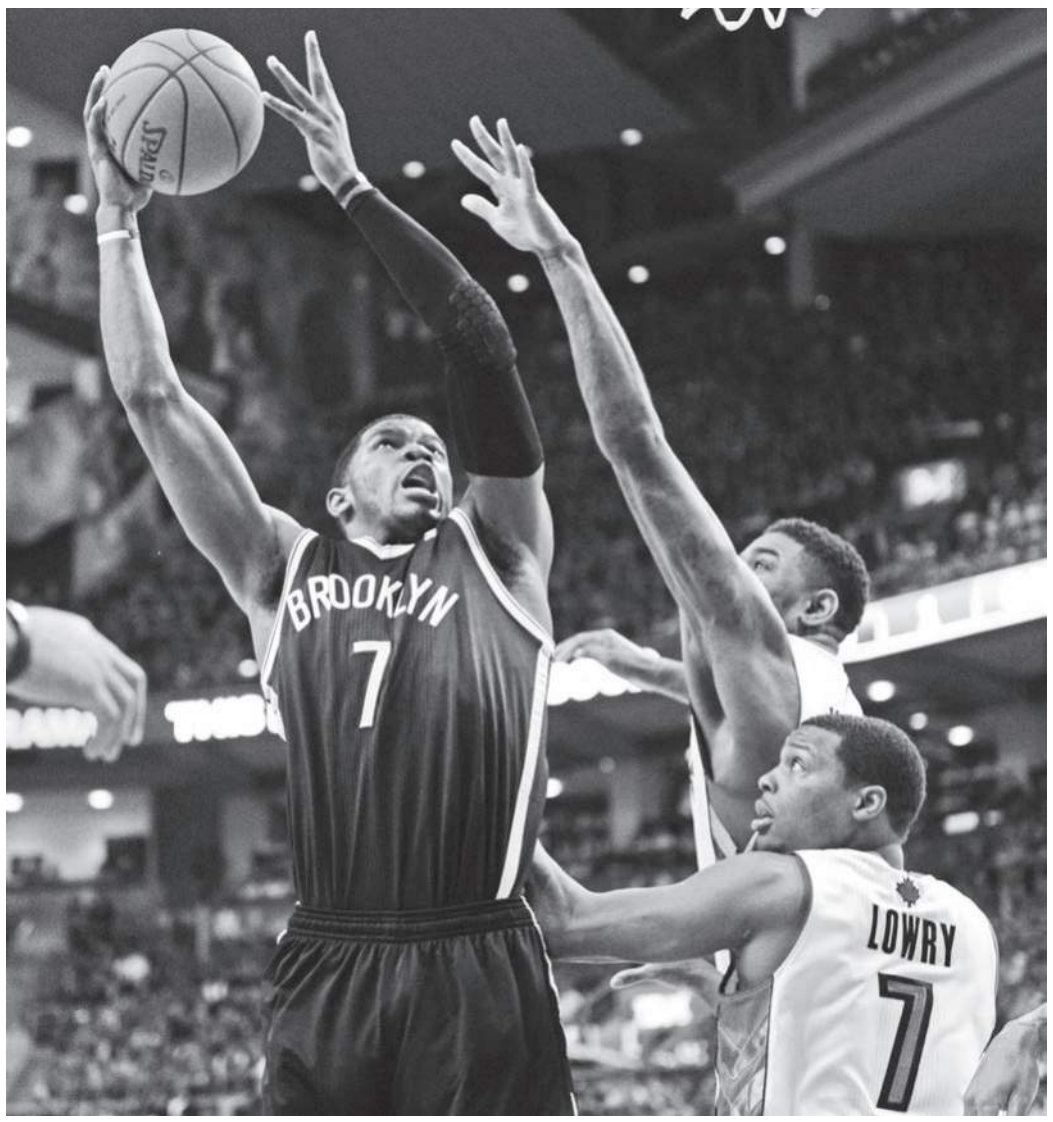
Brooklyn led 81-73 to begin the fourth quarter, but Toronto cut the deficit to five at 90-85 on a layup by Lowry with 7:21 left.

Joe Johnson hit a driving hook shot on the next possession, then followed with a 3, putting the Nets up 95-85 with 6:18 remaining.

Patrick Patterson, who missed two key free throws late in Toronto's Game 3 loss, hit a pair from the line with 56 seconds left, bringing the Raptors to within four at 101-97. Patterson finished with 16 points.

After a missed shot by Pierce, Lowry was fouled and made both free throws, making it 101-99 with 25 seconds remaining.

Trying to force a steal, Lowry fouled Williams on the inbound pass. Williams missed the first but made the second, putting the Nets up three at 102-99. After Toronto called a timeout, Lowry drove for a layup to cut it to one at 102-101 with 16 seconds to go.



AP

Brooklyn Nets' Joe Johnson, left, shoots over Toronto Raptors' Kyle Lowry (7) and during the second half of Game 7 of the opening-round NBA basketball playoff series in Toronto, Sunday, May 4, 2014.

Toronto put Livingston at the foul line and he made both shots, restoring the Nets' three-point lead, but Ross drove for a layup to cut it to one again with 8 seconds left—setting up the frantic finish.

"We battled," Amir Johnson said. "We just ran out of time."

He picked up his fourth and fifth fouls early in the third quarter and Brooklyn led 67-55, its biggest lead of the game, after a pair of free throws by Williams at 9:04.

But Toronto went on an 8-2 run as the Nets missed eight straight shots before Andray Blatche ended the drought with a dunk. Alan Anderson made a jumper and Blatche added a layup, restoring Brooklyn's 12-point edge. DeRozan hit a buzzer-beating 3 to cut it to 81-73 heading to the fourth.

Spurs 119, Mavericjs 96

In San Antonio, faced with the possibility of having a second straight season end with a Game 7 loss, the San Antonio Spurs played with emotion and let Tony Parker have some fun.

Parker scored 32 points and the San Antonio led by as many as 31 on its way to a blowout victory over the Dallas Mavericks, closing out a stressful first-round series Sunday in seven games.

The finale featured Tim Duncan diving into Dallas' bench to save a ball and the Spurs' reserves continually on their feet to celebrate baskets. But no one had as much fun or hit the floor more than Parker.

The All-Star point guard was 11 for 19 from the field and 10 for 13 on free throws as Dallas was unable to keep him from attacking the lane, despite a series of hard fouls.

"I just knew that I had to be aggressive if we wanted to have a chance to win the game because of the strategy that the Mavericks chose," Parker said. "They just dared me to score."

Manu Ginobili scored 20 points, Danny Green added 16 points and Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard had 15 points apiece for San Antonio.

Dirk Nowitzki had 22 points and nine rebounds to lead Dallas.

Last season ended for the Spurs with a Game 7 loss in the NBA Finals against the Miami Heat. Facing a much earlier end, San Antonio rode a raucous home crowd and overwhelmed Dallas.

San Antonio advances to face the fifth-seeded Portland Trail Blazers, who upset the Houston Rockets in a six-game series. The series opens Tuesday in San Antonio.

The Spurs got off to a quick start as they had done at home all series, but the Mavericks were unable to respond as they did in winning Game 2 on the road.

Leonard's 16-foot jumper gave San Antonio an 18-7 lead 6 minutes into the game and the lead swelled to 29 with 2 minutes remaining in the first half.

"We gave ourselves a chance but today we got hit by a tidal wave early," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "They had their best game today and we just weren't able to do quite enough to stay in it early.

"It's hard when you get hit with an onslaught early the way the guys did."

Nowitzki struggled through much of the series, but the Mavericks pushed the Spurs to the brink of elimination behind strong postseason performances from Monta Ellis, Vince Carter, Devin Harris and DeJuan Blair.

"On the court what confounded us was that they've got shooters all the way around," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "Dirk Nowitzki gets a crowd, if you double him you, you leave a lot of other open shooters. So we played him pretty much one-on-one, so we could stay at home a little bit better. That and the ability to shoot it; spread the floor, run the sets that Rick does and the speed of Harris and Ellis was tough for us to handle."

Dallas also played a physical series.

There were two technical fouls and two flagrant fouls in Game 7 and two more flagrants reversed upon review.

Parker was assessed a technical with 31.6 second left in the first quarter after making a layup on and jawing with former teammate Blair as the two ran down the court. The two had been talking to each other all series and Parker was clearly frustrated at times with the hard fouls committed by Blair on his drives earlier in the series.

But Parker said it was all in good fun.

"I was just laughing with DeJuan," Parker said of the technical. "That's why it was so funny to get a technical for that, because I was not even cursing at him. DeJuan played four years (for the Spurs). He lived for a year at my house. I love DeJuan."

Blair was later assessed a flagrant foul for elbowing Ginobili in the face on a drive. After the foul, Blair stared down Popovich, who was screaming at officials over the severity of the foul.

The flagrant foul energized the Spurs, who went on a 14-2 run to take a 51-27 lead with 8 minutes remaining in the first half.

"Everybody was active and kind of focused," Duncan said. "We had very little mistakes."

San Antonio never led by less than 14 points in the second half.

Pistorius defense enters critical phase at trial

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Pistorius' murder trial enters a critical phase Monday as his defense team attempts to recover from a faltering start and reinforce the disabled athlete's claim that he fatally shot girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp by mistake because he was overwhelmed by a long-held fear of violent crime.

Pistorius' mindset when he stood on his stumps in a bathroom and pulled the trigger on his 9 mm pistol in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013 remains the crux of the South African trial that has captured worldwide attention and is about to start its seventh week of globally televised proceedings. It was initially scheduled to run for three weeks.

Judge Thokozile Masipa will analyze thousands of pages of testimony before she reaches a verdict, but ultimately must ponder the pivotal question: Did Pistorius fire his gun with the intention to kill or out of a misplaced belief that his life was in danger from a perceived intruder?

South Africa does not have trial by jury, meaning Masipa will decide, with the help of two assessors, if Pistorius' overall account is believable and whether the apparent inconsistencies in his testimony count against him or are unimportant in the bigger picture.

If Pistorius' defense, which will resume calling witnesses Monday after a two-week trial recess, can show that his story of a tragic error is a reasonable explanation, even the double-amputee runner's shaky testimony would be rendered irrelevant and the judge should acquit him of murder, legal experts say.

While testifying, Pistorius sometimes contradicted earlier testimony and other times said he did not remember details.

"The test doesn't end there," former state prosecutor Marius du Toit said of Pistorius' testimony. "It's not over. They (the defense) can still show there is another plausible scenario."

Du Toit has over 20 years' experience in South Africa's criminal justice system and is following the trial closely. He said it must be shown that Pistorius had the "sole intention" to kill Steenkamp to be convicted of murder.

Pistorius, 27, doesn't dispute that he shot 29-year-old Steenkamp through a toilet door. He claims the killing was accidental and he fired four times in quick succession without thinking and while terrified, believing that an intruder had climbed up a ladder and through a bathroom window of his Pretoria villa in the pre-dawn hours and was about to come out of the cubicle and attack him.

Prosecutors charge that the story is an intricate lie designed to cover up a murder. They say the couple fought, Steenkamp fled to the toilet screaming and Pistorius followed her and shot her through the wood door while they were arguing. She was hit in the hip, arm and head.

Crawford 2 HRs, SF hands Braves 6th loss in row

ATLANTA (AP)—Brandon Crawford homered twice as the San Francisco Giants beat Atlanta 4-1 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep that extended the Braves' losing streak to six — their longest since dropping eight straight in May 2012.

Madison Bumgarner (3-3) allowed one unearned run and three hits in six innings, striking out nine as the Giants won their fifth in a row. Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his first save.

Alex Wood (2-5) lost his fourth straight start, giving up two runs and seven hits in five innings.

San Francisco has homered in 11 straight games for the first time since Sept. 23, 2010, to April 3, 2011, according to STATS.

Marlins 5, Dodgers 4

In Miami, Jeff Baker hit a winning double off the wall against Jamey Wright (2-2) with two outs in the ninth.

Right fielder Yasiel Puig retreated and made a leaping try for an acrobatic catch but slammed against the fence, and the ball deflected off it and hit him in the face. Puig collapsed to his stomach and was slow to rise; he passed a concussion test and Los Angeles said he is day to day.

Giancarlo Stanton homered twice and drove in three runs for Miami, giving him the NL leads with 10 home runs and 36 RBIs.

A.J. Ramos (2-0) tried to protect a one-run lead in the ninth for his first career save, but Chone Figgins walked and scored on Andre Ethier's double.

Mets 5, Rockies 1

In Denver, Dillon Gee (3-1) allowed six hits in six innings, extending his scoreless streak to a career-best 16 innings as New York avoided a four-game sweep. He is 13-6 with a 2.66 ERA since last May 30.

After wasting a 6-0 lead in Saturday's 11-10 loss, the Mets jumped to a 4-0 lead after four innings.

David Wright, Chris Young, Daniel Murphy and Lucas Duda had RBI doubles — Wright has a .384 average, 10 homers and 40 RBIs in 138 at-bats at Coors Field.

Jhoulys Chacin (0-1) was rather rusty his first start this season, lasting five innings and giving up four runs. Chacin spent the first month on the disabled list with a strained right shoulder.

Phillies 1, Nationals 0

In Philadelphia, Roberto Hernandez (2-1) allowed four hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Jimmy Rollins hit a one-out triple in the first and scored on Chase Utley's single off Gio Gonzalez (3-2), who gave up four hits and struck out seven in 7 1-3 innings.

Mike Adams and Antonio Bastardo each got an out in the eighth, and Jonathan Papelbon finished for his ninth save.

Reds 4, Brewers 3

In Cincinnati, Chris Heisey scored from first on Todd Frazier's 10th-inning double into the left-field corner off Tyler Thornburgh (3-1). Cincinnati took three of four against Milwaukee, which is still a big league-best 21-11.

Brandon Phillips greeted reliever Brandon Kintzler with a tying 425-foot homer to center in the eighth, Phillips' first home run since April 5.

Sam LeCure (1-1) pitched the 10th for the win.

Blue Jays 7, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Colby Rasmus hit a grand slam and Melky Cabrera added a two-run homer. Toronto jumped ahead 6-1 after wasting a 5-3, ninth-inning edge in the series opener and a 5-0, fourth-inning advantage Saturday night.

Dustin McGowan (2-1) pitched three-hit ball for seven innings, allowing one run and striking out five as the Blue Jays won for just the fourth time in 13 games.

AP

San Francisco Giants' Brandon Crawford, right, is congratulated on his solo home run by teammate Madison Bumgarner during the fourth inning of a baseball game on Sunday, May 4, 2014, in Atlanta.

Pirates manager Clint Hurdle and first base coach Rick Sofield were ejected by plate umpire Greg Gibson at the end of the fourth for arguing a called third strike on Jordy Mercer. Edinson Volquez (1-3) gave up six runs and seven hits in five innings.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 3

In San Diego, Cameron Maybin reached base after an overturned umpire's call, then scored on Yonder Alonso's slow grounder in the ninth off Oliver Perez (0-1) as San Diego stopped a four-game losing streak.

Maybin started the winning rally with a chopper to second and was initially called out before the call was overturned on a video review.

Huston Street (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win.

White Sox 4, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Dayan Viciedo hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning off John Axford, lifting the Chicago White Sox over the Cleveland Indians and stopping a four-game losing streak.

Corey Kluber struck out a career-high 13 in eight innings, including a team-record seven straight. He allowed one run, three hits and two walks, leaving with a 3-1 lead.

Axford (0-2) walked Gordon Beckham leading off the ninth and struck out Jose Abreu, who hit his major league- leading 12th home run in the first. Adam Dunn walked, and Viciedo homered on a 96 mph fastball.

Daniel Webb (2-0) pitched the eighth, and Matt Lindstrom finished for his fourth save.

Rays 5, Yankees 1

In New York, Wil Myers had a three-run, inside-the-park homer on a drive off the top of the center-field fence and drove in four runs.

Erik Bedard (1-1) earned his first win as a starter since last June, allowing one run and six hits in six innings to help the Rays finish a 5-5 trip.

CC Sabathia (3-4) gave up 10 hits and five runs in 3 2-3 innings, his shortest start since lasting 2 2-3 innings on Oct. 2, 2009, at Tampa Bay. He was late covering first on a potential double play in the fourth and heard some boos from the crowd of 41,122 during an outing that raised his ERA to 5.75.

Athletics 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Yoenis Cespedes drove in the go-ahead run on an infield single with the bases loaded in the 10th off Chris Capuano (1-1) as Oakland averted a three-game sweep and completed a 5-5 trip. The hit drove in Jed Lowrie, who had doubled with two outs.

Jim Johnson (3-2) got a double-play grounder by Jonny Gomes to end the ninth and worked the 10th.

Rangers 14, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Prince Fielder had a pair of RBI doubles that ended a drought of 39 at-bats without an extra-base hit.

Yu Darvish (2-1) shrugged off first-inning homers by Erick Aybar and Albert Pujols to get his first victory since April 6 at Tampa Bay. He allowed three runs, seven hits and no walks in 6 1-3 innings with nine strikeouts.

J.P. Arencibia hit his first homer and Michael Choice added a three-run drive for Texas.

Tyler Skaggs (2-1) gave up runs, eight hits and three walks in 2 2-3 innings, the shortest of his 19 big league starts.

Tigers 9, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Justin Verlander (4-1) took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and won his fourth straight decision, helping Detroit complete a three-game sweep and extend its winning streak to a season-high five games.

Billy Butler singled to right on a 1-2 pitch with two outs in the sixth, leaving him with a .432 average in 74 at-bats against the Detroit ace,

Nick Castellanos and Alex Avila homered for the Tigers, who had 16 hits, and Torii Hunter had three hits and three RBIs.

Jason Vargas (2-1) gave up seven runs and 11 hits in five innings.

Twins 5, Orioles 2

In Minneapolis, Phil Hughes (3-1) gave up two runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings to win his third straight start. After a single by Nick Markakis starting the game, Hughes retired his next 14 batters.

Miguel Gonzalez (1-3) allowed three runs, six hits and four walks in 4 2-3 innings. Trevor Plouffe and Kurt Suzuki hit two-run doubles. Twins first baseman Joe Mauer left in the top of the third with lower-back spasms and is day to day.

Mariners 8, Astros 7

In Houston, Robinson Cano and Willie Bloomquist each drove in two runs as Seattle pulled away in a four-run third and dropped Houston to a big league-worst 10-21.

Bloomquist broke a 1-all tie with a two-run double against Collin McHugh (2-1) and Cano followed with his first triple since June 3, 2012.

Brandon Maurer (1-0) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings for his first win since Sept. 28 against Oakland. Danny Farquhar allowed one run in two innings for his first save since that same game last autumn.

Hall of Famers believe gay player will be accepted

CLEVELAND (AP)—Once Michael Sam is drafted in the NFL, the Missouri defensive end will be judged strictly on whether he can play and whether he can help his team win.

Everything—even that he's gay—will be trivial.

As the first openly homosexual player to enter the draft, Sam could face scrutiny unlike any player before him. But many of the greatest players and coaches in football history don't believe he'll be subjected to any hatred, harassment, discrimination or bullying by teammates.

"I don't think he'll have any problem in the locker room. I don't think he'll have any problems on the field," said Hall of Fame offensive tackle Art Shell. "The one thing about football players, they're inclusive. They will take you for who you are, not what people try to portray you as.

"It's who you are: `You're a football player, then you can play with us.' I don't see that as being a problem in the National Football League."

Shell's stance was shared by several other Hall of Famers, including Lions running back Barry Sanders, Buffalo coach Marv Levy, and Giants linebacker Harry Carson, who appeared along with nearly 100 other inductees at a two-day "Fan Fest," the largest gathering ever of football legends outside Canton, Ohio.

Sanders, who retired at the peak of his career following the 1998 season with 15,269 career yards rushing, believes there's an unwritten code among football players to ignore anything other than a person's skills and talents.

"From the time you're a kid and you start playing, you're almost programmed for `Can a guy play or not?'" he said. "By the time you get to the NFL, that's well ingrained. I'm pretty sure every guy in this league has been around gay individuals before, and so I don't think it will be much different."

Sam's courageous decision to reveal his sexual orientation was an important personal milestone. It was also an historic moment for the NFL and all major sports as it provides a deeper reflection of society's openness and willingness to accept his individuality.

Sam's revelation may not have been met with such overwhelming approval just a few years ago. In the macho arena that is pro football, Sam may have been an outcast in previous generations.

"He's a very bold guy to come out," said cornerback Michael Haynes, a nine-time Pro Bowler elected to the Hall of Fame in 1997. "The timing is good. If he'd done that in the `60s or `70s, maybe not so good because everybody was really struggling with how to understand differences like that in people.

"Diversity has become a critical topic, people are talking about it all the time and I think the world is different. Remember Magic Johnson with AIDS? It starts with education. He'll be judged on football."

Carson, who retired in 1988 after 13 seasons in New York, said he was "proud" of Sam for choosing to be open about his sexuality. Carson recalled that one of his Giants teammates, offensive lineman Roy Simmons, was suspected as being gay and was never ostracized.

"It never really swayed anyone's opinion of him," Carson said. "But it's something he lived with and he didn't have to by himself because he had teammates, and the teammates he had were guys who supported him. Even though he never said anything, we're a team and guys on the team who are unselfish are going to support their teammates regardless of how they choose to live their lives."

Simmons, the first player to acknowledge he was HIV positive, died early this year. He was 57.

It's possible there will be some awkwardness for Sam in the locker room, where he could be subjected to jokes and playful ribbing. Sanders believes those days are long gone.

"Guys are more forward thinking than you think," he said. "It helps that he's a big guy. No one will mess with him."

Holmes completes comeback with win at Quail Hollow

WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—J.B. Holmes was a 3-foot putt away from winning the Wells Fargo Championship when he backed away to size up the situation.

This wasn't about pressure. He was just happy to be there.

Nearly three years removed from brain surgery, Holmes was in a far better place Sunday at Quail Hollow. His 3-foot bogey putt gave him a 1-under 71 and a one-shot victory over Jim Furyk, capping a remarkable comeback from a health issue that wouldn't be classified as the garden variety in golf.

Not many other guys keep a piece of their skull in a container in their closet.

"Just enjoying the moment," Holmes said. "You don't get that very often, so getting up and thanking God for letting me have the opportunity to do it. Whether I made it or not, just enjoy being there."

He made it more stressful than he needed, with two bogeys on the last three holes and an 8-foot par putt on the other. Jason Bohn had the best chance to catch Holmes, one shot behind until pulling a 4-iron into the water on the par-3 17th and making double bogey. Phil Mickelson never had a chance, missing four putts from the 4-foot range and closing with a 76 to finish out of the top 10.

It was the third PGA Tour win for Holmes, and by far the sweetest.

Three years ago, he began to feel dizzy, and it wasn't much longer when he was diagnosed with structural defects in the cerebellum known as Chiara malformations. He had brain surgery—twice. The first time was to remove a piece of his skull. The second time was from an allergic reaction to the adhesive that was holding the titanium plate to the base of the skull, causing severe headaches.

AP

J.B. Holmes reacts after winning the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, May 4, 2014.

If that wasn't enough, he injured his left elbow from hitting too many golf balls in a rush to return. Holmes spent a year getting more cortisone shots that he cared to remember, and when he broke his ankle while roller blading for exercise last year, he used that time to have elbow surgery.

"It's been a long journey for me," Holmes said. "I've had some ups and downs. It's a great feeling to be out there and to get one done."

Holmes made enough key putts to allow for some mistakes at the end. He ran off three birdies in a four-hole stretch around the turn, including a 30-footer on No. 11 that opened up a two-shot lead. He gouged a fairway metal out of the rough on the par-5 15th to set up a 6-foot birdie putt that stretched his lead to three shots.

Perhaps the biggest putt of all was an 8-foot par save on the 17th hole. That kept his lead at two shots, and he needed it. Instead of playing an iron off the tee, he drove into the right rough, came up well short of the green and chipped weakly to 45 feet.

Furyk was watching on TV in the locker room when Holmes knocked in the bogey putt to finish at 14-under 274.

Martin Flores, in his first time playing in the last group, fell too far back with a three-putt bogey on the 13th. He made bogey on the 18th for a 72 and was third, the best finish of his PGA Tour career. Bohn also bogeyed the 18th for a 70 to finish fourth.

Bohn received a bad time on the 16th hole—one more would have been a one-shot penalty—and said he let it get to him.

"I didn't feel comfortable with the wind starting to gust up a little bit, and I went ahead and hit it anyhow in a situation that I probably would have backed off in," Bohn said. "So I'm more disappointing in myself and the way that I handled that than the golf shots that I hit."

Still, the biggest disappointment might have been Mickelson.

He was in great shape going into the final round, two shots out of the lead, and the two players ahead of him stalled at the start. Instead, Mickelson matched his highest final round on the PGA Tour since The Barclays in 2012. And it was an old nemesis—short putting—that did him in. Mickelson three-putted from 15 feet on No. 8. He missed a 3-foot par putt on the 11th, a 4-foot birdie putt on the 14th and four-putted from 30 feet on the 16th.

"I had two great rounds and I had two pathetic rounds this week," Mickelson said. "The greens putted perfectly, even though I didn't."

The challenge came three others, with a series of eagles that injected some drama into Quail Hollow, if only briefly.

Furyk chipped in for eagle from off the 15th green and then closed with three straight pars for a 65 to sit in the clubhouse at 13-under 275. Bohn holed out a sand wedge from 95 yards on the par-5 10th hole that disappeared into the cup on the third bounce. He also chipped in for birdie on No. 12.

Flores chipped in for eagle from short of the 10th green that allowed him to tie for the lead, but only until Holmes made a short birdie putt of his own on No. 10. Holmes ran in the long birdie putt on the next hole for a two-shot lead, and he stayed in control the rest of the way.

Holmes still has that container with a piece of his skull somewhere in his closet. He doesn't use it as inspiration. He's not even sure where it is. So when asked if he would put the trophy from Wells Fargo next to it, Holmes chuckled.

"I'll put the skull in the trophy," he said.

JP WORLD

From Page 28

tor had a point-blank shot to keep the Rollers in the game.

Now holding a shaky lead, JP World pressed the panic button and when the game resumed, Rolly Paraiso made an and-1 play to halt the Rollers' rally. The JP World forward posted up against Mike Arciaga from the right shaded lane, drove toward his right and went for his signature fake-off move. Arciaga bit on the bait and rammed into Paraiso, who still managed to go up and can the shot. Paraiso nailed the bonus charity to give JP World more breathing space, 91-87, going into the final two minutes of the match.

JP World was never threatened from thereon with Pelisamen putting the finishing touches on the win, scoring 5 of the team's last 7 points. Pelisamen had a game-high 29 markers, while Estolas added 26. Morales led the Rollers with his 29 points.

JP World 98 – Pelisamen 29, J. Estolas 26, Paraiso 14, Camacho 7, Peredo 6, D. Estolas 4, Sison 3, Manalo 2, Sharry 1.

Rollers 94 – Morales 28, Factor 16, Arciaga 13, Fidelino 8, Cayading 7, Ano 5, Nakayama 4, Iglecias 2, Pangelinan 2, Omori 2, Malonzo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-17, 44-43, 73-68, 98-94.

MCDONALD'S

From Page 28

tos hit their target at the top of the third to break the team's silence. Reyes nailed an RBI double to put McDonald's in the board, while Santos' two-RBI single gave the squad the lead, 3-1. Comets I answered with only one run at the bottom of the third off Vincent Nakamura's stolen base to still fall behind and it never relinquished the lead after making only two hits and having five stranded runners in the last three innings.

Comets I were called for two quick outs on 6-3 putout plays at the bottom of the fourth, while the third batter was stranded at first after Reyes struck out Jesse Taitano. Earlier at the top of the fourth, McDonald's bagged two more runs off Austin Sanchez's run from a passed ball and a sacrifice out from Reyes and the team nailed one more at the top of the fifth off a Comets I error at right field.

At the bottom of the fifth, Comets I had a chance to score with Henrick Delos Reyes at third base with two outs, but Sneak Sumol flied out. Comets I also had opportunities to reach home plate at the bottom of the sixth inning with runners on second and third with two outs, but Taitano was called for the third out on a 4-3 putout play.

In the first game last Saturday, the JPO Enforcers wrapped up their regular season game on a positive note after routing Laolao Bay, 17-3.

An 11-run top of the third inning allowed the Enforcers to take the early win via 10-run mercy rule. Ahead by only one, 3-2, after failing to score in the first inning and tallying three runs in the second, eight of the Enforcers' top of the order reached home plate for the big turnaround. Shortstop Dennis Cabrera and pitcher Troy Laniyo led the Enforcers in the pivotal third inning as they each hit two-RBI triple and earned two runs apiece.

Laolao Bay countered with only one run at the bottom of the third and was also without a run in the fourth after Laniyo got the two needed strikeouts for the Enforcers' win two innings early.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

who timed in at 4:48:14. Rounding out the Top 3 in the men's open division was another Saipan bet, Peter Prestley, who submitted 5:04:10.

Athena Andrews, also from Saipan, was the fourth overall finisher and first in the women's division after finishing the race in 5:12:35. She prevailed against fellow Saipan biker Glorybel Tan (6:08:13).

In the men's 36 to 45 age group, Saipan's Bob Ferrer defeated two Tinian bikers. He logged 5:13:07 to win over the host's Charlie and Fernando Cabreros, who recorded 5:28:25 and 5:35:21, respectively. In the 46-and-above division, Saipan also finished first with Cesar Fortaleza timing in at 5:26:11 to down Tinian's Norlo Jacosalem (5:30:03) and Robert Fajardo (5:57:19), while Wynn Brillo was the lone entry in the under 25 age group and posted 6:08:15 (No. 14 overall).

For the relay race, Dencio Bautista and George De Guzman combined for 4:58:25 to finish ahead of fellow Saipan bikers Rusty Valino and Enrique Suba, who registered 5:11:55. There was also a four-man team in the race with the Tinian quartet of Rameshi Adhikar, Jimmy Cabay, and Julian and Jack Hofschneider tallying 6:07:31.

Meanwhile, 11 other bikers joined the weekend race, but failed to finish due to technical problems and crashes.

In the kids division, 11 participated in the short race with Lino Tenorio, J.C. Ferrer, and Matthew Sarmiento ruling their respective age groups. Tenorio was the top finisher in the U5 division, placing ahead of Jasper Borja, Galyug Joseph Untalan, and Brayden John Santos. Ferrer reigned supreme in the girls 6 to 7 age group, prevailing against Siena Fleming Lazaro and Mary Manuel, while Sarmiento won in the boys division against Amiel Noah Jacosalem, Edmar Tirona, and Sean Plunkett.

Meanwhile, race organizer Bikers Association of Tinian would like to thank the following for supporting the Tour De Tinian: Marianas Visitors Authority, Johnson's Air Conditioning, Office of the Tinian Mayor, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Buckle Up CNMI. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	14	.533	–
Baltimore	15	14	.517	½
Boston	15	17	.469	2
Tampa Bay	15	17	.469	2
Toronto	14	17	.452	2½
Central Division				
Detroit	17	9	.654	–
Minnesota	14	15	.483	4½
Chicago	15	17	.469	5
Kansas City	14	16	.467	5
Cleveland	13	18	.419	6½
West Division				
Oakland	19	12	.613	–
Texas	17	14	.548	2
Los Angeles	15	15	.500	3½
Seattle	14	15	.483	4
Houston	10	21	.323	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	17	13	.567	–
Washington	17	14	.548	½
New York	16	14	.533	1
Philadelphia	15	14	.517	1½
Miami	16	15	.516	1½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	21	11	.656	–
St. Louis	16	16	.500	5
Cincinnati	15	16	.484	5½
Pittsburgh	12	19	.387	8½
Chicago	11	18	.379	8½
West Division				
San Francisco	20	11	.645	–
Colorado	19	14	.576	2
Los Angeles	18	14	.563	2½
San Diego	14	18	.438	6½
Arizona	11	23	.324	10½

WELLS FARGO SCORES

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) – Scores Sunday from the $6.9-million Wells Fargo, played at the par-72 (36-36), 7,562-yard Quail Hollow Club Course:

FINAL ROUND

J.B. Holmes (500), $1,242,000	70-67-66-71–274
Jim Furyk (300), $745,200	72-69-69-65–275
Martin Flores (190), $469,200	67-68-69-72–276
Jason Bohn (135), $331,200	73-67-67-70–277
Justin Rose (110), $276,000	69-67-71-71–278
Brendon de Jonge (95), $239,775	80-62-68-69–279
Kevin Kisner (95), $239,775	72-66-68-73–279
Roberto Castro (80), $200,100	71-70-69-70–280
Rory McIlroy (80), $200,100	69-76-65-70–280
Rory Sabbatini (80), $200,100	74-68-71-67–280
Kevin Chappell (65), $158,700	73-70-70-68–281
Phil Mickelson (65), $158,700	67-75-63-76–281
Michael Thompson (65), $158,700	71-69-69-72–281
Jonathan Byrd (56), $120,750	68-71-70-73–282
Zach Johnson (56), $120,750	71-70-69-72–282
Geoff Ogilvy (56), $120,750	72-67-70-73–282
Kevin Streelman (56), $120,750	72-69-71-70–282
Charles Howell III (51), $89,976	69-71-70-73–283
Martin Kaymer (51), $89,976	69-69-70-75–283
Ryan Moore (51), $89,976	70-71-76-66–283
Kevin Na (51), $89,976	69-72-69-73–283
Gary Woodland (51), $89,976	71-72-68-72–283
Jason Kokrak (45), $58,157	75-68-73-68–284
Y.E. Yang (45), $58,157	73-72-71-68–284
Stewart Cink (45), $58,157	68-70-74-72–284
John Merrick (45), $58,157	71-70-70-73–284
Wes Roach (45), $58,157	71-71-69-73–284
Robert Streb (45), $58,157	71-69-71-73–284
Mark Wilson (45), $58,157	72-72-66-74–284
Ricky Barnes (38), $40,106	72-72-68-73–285
Scott Brown (38), $40,106	71-73-70-71–285
Angel Cabrera (38), $40,106	66-69-75-75–285
Derek Ernst (38), $40,106	73-68-70-74–285
Chris Kirk (38), $40,106	71-70-71-73–285
Martin Laird (38), $40,106	69-70-73-73–285
Vijay Singh (38), $40,106	69-72-71-73–285
Brendan Steele (38), $40,106	72-72-69-72–285
Sang-Moon Bae (31), $28,980	72-71-71-72–286
Bud Cauley (31), $28,980	71-71-70-74–286
Rickie Fowler (31), $28,980	74-71-74-67–286
Scott Langley (31), $28,980	70-71-71-74–286
Hideki Matsuyama (31), $28,980	69-72-72-73–286
Webb Simpson (31), $28,980	68-73-70-75–286
Ernie Els (25), $20,861	76-67-67-77–287
Bill Haas (25), $20,861	75-70-70-72–287
David Hearn (25), $20,861	70-74-71-72–287
Pat Perez (25), $20,861	73-71-66-77–287
Shawn Stefani (25), $20,861	69-68-75-75–287
Andrew Svoboda (25), $20,861	72-72-69-74–287
Retief Goosen (19), $16,643	70-70-74-74–288
Danny Lee (19), $16,643	71-71-70-76–288
Hunter Mahan (19), $16,643	72-73-72-71–288
Ben Martin (19), $16,643	71-73-69-75–288
Ted Potter, Jr. (19), $16,643	72-73-74-69–288
Robert Allenby (16), $15,801	73-72-73-71–289
Daniel Summerhays (16), $15,801	70-72-72-75–289
Josh Teater (13), $15,456	72-73-75-70–290
Mike Weir (13), $15,456	72-71-70-77–290
Will Wilcox (13), $15,456	71-72-73-74–290
Brian Davis (9), $14,904	74-71-75-71–291
Michael Putnam (9), $14,904	73-69-72-77–291
Heath Slocum (9), $14,904	77-68-74-72–291
Kyle Stanley (9), $14,904	74-71-75-71–291
Cameron Tringale (9), $14,904	74-68-79-70–291
Brian Harman (5), $14,352	70-74-78-70–292
Davis Love III (5), $14,352	75-68-74-75–292
Kevin Tway (5), $14,352	73-72-75-72–292
Johnson Wagner (3), $14,076	75-70-73-75–293
Justin Hicks (1), $13,800	74-71-74-76–295
Carl Pettersson (1), $13,800	73-71-74-77–295
Jim Renner (1), $13,800	71-74-74-76–295
Bronson La'Cassie (1), $13,524	71-73-77-75–296
Jim Herman (1), $13,386	76-68-72-81–297

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPSSA Girls High School Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mount Carmel School's Jan Travilla is hemmed in by two Saipan International School defenders during their title game in the 2013-2014 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Girls Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mount Carmel School's Richelle Kautz battles a Saipan International School player for the rebound.

Saipan International Schoo's Adele Hudkins goes up for a shot against two Mount Carmel School players.

Mount Carmel School's Karlene Reyes pulls up for a shot on a fastbreak play.

Saipan International School's Nicole Arenovski attempts a jumper over the outstretched arm of Mount Carmel School's Amy Taylor.

A Saipan International School player tries to pull up for a shot, while a Mount Carmel School defender attempts to tap the ball down.

Mount Carmel School's Michelle Kautz goes up for a fastbreak layup.

Mount Carmel School's Jan Travilla drives to the baseline.

Mount Carmel School's Amy Taylor, left, and Michelle Kautz, right, hound a Saipan International School player.

Pierce's block leads Nets past Raptors, 104-103

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Crawford 2 HRs, SF hands Braves 6th loss in row

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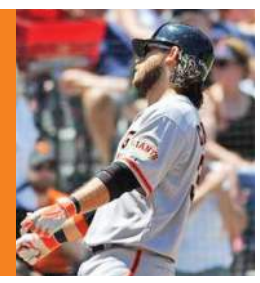

JP World takes solo lead in QQ caging

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

JP World's Juan Camacho, center, is blocked, but still draws body contact from the Rollers' Prince Factor during the third quarter of their game in the QQ caging last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JP World took the solo lead in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League after repulsing the Rollers, 98-94, Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

JP World came back from a double-digit deficit in the second quarter and withstood the Rollers' fourth-period rally to gain the win and improve its record to 5-1, one victory ahead of defending champion Blue Haus (4-1). The Rollers remained winless in two games after squandering a 13-point lead in the second quarter.

The Rollers stretched its 17-12 advantage to double figures, 37-24, with C.J. Morales toying around the defense of JP World, scoring on daredevil drives and 3-point shots. The lefty guard had 9 early points in the second canto, including 7 straight to threaten JP World, which then managed to return to business after holding the Rollers to two field goals and two free throws in the last 5:13 of that period. A buzzer-beating triple from Errol Peredo with two seconds left in the first half put JP World on top by a hair at halftime, 44-43.

Though it was Peredo's trey that helped JP World grab the upper hand, it was Jun Estolas' free throws that brought the team back into the game in the second frame. The veteran guard went on foul-baiting mode in the second canto, scoring 7 of his 10 points from the foul line in that period.

Estolas kept going in the second half, this time hitting four straight field goals at one point in the third period, as he tricked the Rollers defense by going for isolation plays from the top key before driving past his bigger, but slower guards. Estolas also drew help from Freddie Pelisaman, who knocked in 8 early points in the third and 10 in the quarter to lift JP World to a 73-68 advantage.

JP World then tasted its biggest lead at 88-80 before Morales anchored a short 7-0 run to move the Rollers within a point, 87-88, with 2:35 left on the clock. Morales converted a layup and a triple, while Prince Fac-

See JP WORLD on Page 26

McDonald's secures playoff berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's grabbed a seat in the playoff round of the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball, following a 6-2 win over Comets I last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

With the win, McDonald's now has an 8-5 record, pending the decision on the game (versus Braves) it placed under protest. The Braves nipped McDonald's, 6-5, in last month's match, but the latter challenged the result, citing an umpire's wrong fair ball call in the fourth inning. League officials were scheduled to decide on the protest last night. If the Braves (10-3) keep the victory, they will remain at the No. 3 spot in the eight-team playoff and face the Little Legals this weekend, while McDonald's will finish at No. 7 and challenge the second-ranked IT&E. A rematch and McDonald's win would force a three-way logjam (Braves, Comets, and Enforcers) for third place and move McDonald to a tie for sixth with the Little Legals (8-6). The Falcons (13-1) and Laolao Bay (7-7) are the two other teams competing in the playoffs.

McDonald's completed the playoff cast and handed Comets I a loss at the end of the regular season after recovering from a sluggish start. McDonald's failed to score in the first two innings and trailed, 0-1, before pitcher Jared Reyes and third baseman Johnny San-

See MCDONALD'S on Page 26

A McDonald's player throws to first base during their game against the Braves in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last month at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last Saturday's Tour De Tinian pose for a photo at the starting line before heading out to the 100-kilometer course.

Saipan bikers lead way in Tour De Tinian

Nap Dizon led Saipan bikers' domination of last Saturday's Tour De Tinian.

Dizon was the overall top finisher in the 100-kilometer MTB race that started and ended at Kammer Beach and coincided with the San Jose Fiesta weekend. Dizon completed the century distance race in 4:47:06 to place ahead of 16 other finishers and rule the men's open division. He made it to the finish line just one minute and eight seconds earlier than runner-up Erico Castro,

See SAIPAN on Page 26